

# GARDNER-WEBB

Volume 53, Number 1, 2018

THE MAGAZINE



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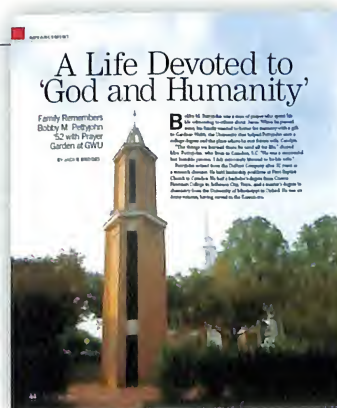
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## GARDNER-WEBB • THE MAGAZINE

Volume 53, Number 1, 2018

The Gardner-Webb Magazine is the official magazine of Gardner-Webb University, and it is published by the Division of University Communications and Marketing.

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**Contributing Photographers**  
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### Submissions and Feedback

By mail: The Gardner-Webb Magazine  
Office of University Communications  
P.O. Box 7315  
Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017

By email: [ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ntmanning@gardner-webb.edu)

[Gardner-webb.edu/gwumagazine](http://Gardner-webb.edu/gwumagazine)

### Address and Name Change Submissions

Contact: Becky Robbins  
By phone: 704.406.4251  
By email: [rrobbins@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:rrobbins@gardner-webb.edu)

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# NEWS & NOTES



## New Innovative Business Degrees Enhance Opportunities for Working Professionals

The Godbold School of Business at Gardner-Webb University launched a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in fall 2018 and will offer an online 10-month Master of Business Administration (MBA) in January 2019.

The 60 course hours required to earn the DBA include 24 hours of foundational classes, 24 in the selected major and 12 for the dissertation. Four concentrations are offered: accounting, finance, international business and marketing.

The 10-month MBA is a unique format that allows a student to take two courses every eight weeks. The curriculum

is structured to provide students with the managerial skills needed for successful leadership.

"Our entire faculty has worked to develop courses that are of the highest quality and value," noted Mischia Taylor, dean and instructor of business. "We are also proud these programs maintain the Gardner-Webb tradition of small class sizes, which gives us an opportunity to develop relationships with our students."

University leaders spent considerable time researching the demand for both degrees, and they believe the opportunities for program growth and impact are substantial.

## Leadership Studies to Meet the Demands of Today's Workforce

Gardner-Webb University has finalized plans for a new online degree program through the School of Education, the Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership (BAOL).

"This curriculum provides students with a liberal arts understanding of leadership in today's complex organizations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors," shared Dr. Jeff Hamilton, assistant professor of Education. "We believe students will enjoy developing the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes that are in high demand by employers and are hallmarks of effective leaders."

The degree is modeled after the University's Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership. In addition to other program goals, students will be offered the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills to lead within any type of organization, service or profession. Multidisciplinary in approach, the BAOL provides some key learning concepts that include understanding critical organizational processes, team building, effective communication, conflict management, multicultural team building and leading/driving change within an ethical approach to personal and professional leadership.

Courses offered through the major include Organizational Theory, Leadership Development, Theory and Practice of Leadership, Organizational Communication, Introduction to Human Resources Management, Ethical Leadership, Digital Culture and Society and more.





## University Honored for Comprehensive Student Experiences

Gardner-Webb University has been recognized by a national organization that rates colleges on high-impact educational practices and student engagement. For its dynamic out-of-classroom learning and study abroad programs, GWU has earned the title of College of Distinction.

The honor also acknowledges the University's commitment to such core competencies as critical thinking, writing, oral skills, research and global perspectives.

Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president, said the achievement further recognizes the enthusiastic dedication of the University's faculty. "Creating and implementing a set of student-centered programs that include opportunities like service learning, first-year programs, undergraduate research, global learning and capstone courses are simply an extension of our fundamental commitment to student success," he affirmed. "At Gardner-Webb, we have a faculty that is committed first and foremost to a student-centered college experience that empowers our students for leadership and success in whatever their chosen profession."

For information about the award, visit [CollegesofDistinction.com](http://CollegesofDistinction.com).



## Online Master of Arts in English Named Best in Nation

Gardner-Webb University's online Master of Arts in English degree has been named among the best in the nation. Gardner-Webb's online programs have received multiple honors for quality and affordability in recent years, but this marks the first distinction for the University's Master of Arts in English program.

OnlineU, an online source for college and career information, honored Gardner-Webb as No. 4 in the U.S. on its "2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in English" list, a resource produced to help current and future students make smart choices about advancing their education and careers. The ranking earned GWU a placement among schools like Texas Tech (Lubbock, Texas), Valdosta State University (Valdosta, Ga.), and Arizona State University (Tempe, Ariz.).

"Our decision to use an online delivery format reflected our desire to provide

in-depth graduate study to students whose careers and geography may prohibit their participation in a seated program," shared Dr. Jennifer Buckner, associate professor of English and chair of the Department of English Language and Literature. "We are thrilled to be recognized among the most affordable options—but we are *more* proud that the program we provide is of high quality and value," she said.

"Students who enter our program often express surprise and delight that our online program is so interactive," Buckner shared. "We've found a way to bring the personalization and community of a private, liberal arts university into an online format. While in the program, students develop their scholarly and professional skills, preparing them for a lifetime of critical, informed thinking about a wide range of topics related to English studies."



## Dr. Prince Bull Named School of Education Dean

Officials at Gardner-Webb University are thrilled to announce that Dr. Prince Bull has been appointed as the new dean of the GWU School of Education.

Previously, Bull was a professor of Curriculum and Instruction in the School of Education at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where he served since 2008. With over 25 years of leadership experience in both higher education and the public school system, Bull was recently awarded a grant by the UNC system to develop the first competency-based education (CBE) degree program in elementary education and middle grades education in the UNC system.

"I look forward to working with students, staff, faculty and administrators," Bull



Dr. Prince Bull

reflected, "to implement innovative programs designed to produce the next generation of transformative and socially-responsive, highly-qualified educators to meet the needs of North Carolina and beyond."

He is a Quality Matters-certified peer reviewer and online facilitator. In 2012, he received the NCCU Teaching Excellence Award. Bull has authored *"Understanding Technology Integration to Prepare Millennial Students for 21st Century Education"* (2010), as well as numerous articles and other publications. In addition to an active research program, Bull is in demand as a keynote speaker and workshop leader, especially in the areas of educational technology and teaching modalities.

Bull's extensive education and degrees include a Bachelor of Arts in History/Law and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education from the University of Sierra Leone (Freetown, Sierra Leone), a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Supervision and a Master of Education in Special Education from North Carolina Central University. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from North Carolina State University (Raleigh, N.C.).

## Dr. June Hobbs Named Chair of Student Success

A longtime Gardner-Webb University English professor assumed a new role, after being named the inaugural Fay Webb Gardner Chair of Student Success. Dr. June Hobbs, a 25-year veteran of the GWU Department of English Language and Literature with a proven track record of extraordinary investment in students, began her new role in the fall 2018 semester.

The Gardner Foundation committed a generous, three-year gift to the University to launch the "Fay Webb Gardner Master Mentorship Program." The program includes the creation of a new endowed chair—the Fay Webb Gardner Chair of Student Success—to focus exclusively on mentorship as a means of enriching the undergraduate experience of students who demonstrate superior academic potential. In this role, Hobbs will provide individualized attention toward student research and internship projects, fellowship applications and career guidance.

In addition to her extensive teaching



Dr. June Hobbs

experience, Hobbs also serves as the GWU director of Undergraduate Research and is the faculty sponsor to the University's chapter of Alpha Chi, a national collegiate honor society.

"I will encourage our students to engage in undergraduate research projects that will make them attractive to graduate schools, test potential career paths, and develop the critical-thinking skills crucial for all kinds of careers in the 21st century," noted Hobbs.

Hobbs is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University (Shawnee, Okla.). She holds an M.A. from the University of Louisville (Louisville, Ky.) and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma (Norman, Okla.).

"The Gardner Foundation has been bold in allowing us to venture into this area and explore how we can expand student mentoring in a way that few other colleges in America are trying to do," observed Dr. Joseph Moore, Gardner Foundation/GWU liaison and assistant professor of history. "GWU is already better than most schools in the nation at mentoring undergraduate students. Through this program, we want to create an even more intentional focus on what we are passionate about."



# Record-breaking Event Raises More Than \$90,000

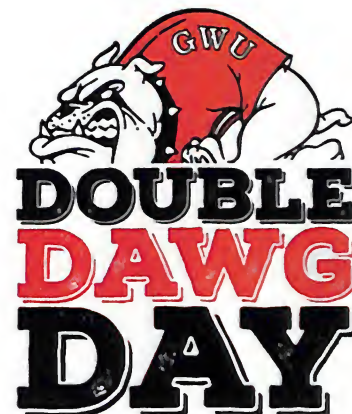


Officials at Gardner-Webb University are thanking supporters for their part in the record-breaking success of #DoubleDawgDay, the University's annual celebration of giving to support student scholarships and financial aid. Over 220 donors gave \$90,310—exceeding last year's total.

"Thanks to these donors, more students can now have outstanding college experiences and pursue their goals at Gardner-Webb," said GWU President Dr. Frank Bonner. "Ultimately, their generosity enables the University to carry out our mission to serve God and humanity."

According to Sara McCall, director of GWU Annual Giving, #DoubleDawgDay is dedicated to raising scholarship funds.

"These gifts are vital to students' opportunities and successes. Supporters and donors have made—and will continue to make—a substantial difference in the lives of today's young people."



**GARDNER-WEBB  
UNIVERSITY  
ANNUAL FUND**

Help keep the  
wheels turning for our  
**TALENTED STUDENTS**

**Support GWU's Annual Fund**

- Senior psychology major Justin Jenkins makes the most of his GWU experience. He proudly serves as a Presidential Associate at campus functions and plays guard on the Bulldogs basketball team. After graduation, Justin seeks a career in medical device sales. "I chose GWU because it feels like a true community. It's a lot different from other colleges I visited."



**Make your gift to GWU's Annual Fund today!**  
[gardner-webb.edu/give](http://gardner-webb.edu/give)

**98%**

of our students  
receive scholarship  
assistance  
and/or financial aid.



Every dollar you give  
to the Annual Fund  
directly supports  
student scholarships.



For the 2017-2018  
year, GWU students  
hailed from 38 states  
and 27 countries.





Members of the Gardner-Webb Alpha Chi delegation were front row, from left, Kelsi Williams, Harley Burgess, Sarah Grace Moxley, Summer Byers, Hannah Ray, Emily Eidson, Sarah Traylor, Shaquavia Chiles, Angela Meade, and Dr. June Hobbs, and back row, Tyler Hemingway, Damien Hutchins, Hope Still, Gabrielle Cortese, Mallory Moore, Morgan VanderSchaaf, Tyler Helms, and Dr. Bruce Moser.

## Students Win \$10,000 for Research, Creativity and Academic Rigor

Gardner-Webb University sent 16 students to the Alpha Chi Conference in Portland, Ore. Alpha Chi is a national college honor society invested in fueling students' original research and creativity. There are 300 society chapters at colleges and universities in the United States.

"Gardner-Webb sent the largest delegation and won the most prizes of any chapter in the nation at the national convention," said Dr. June Hobbs, Alpha Chi sponsor and Fay Webb Gardner chair of Student Success. "Our students' superior preparation and professionalism were very obvious in the context of such intense academic competition."

Students from GWU won a total of \$10,000 in prizes and grants for their research presentations.

A collaborative team took the first-place prize of \$5,000 for their project: "The Psychology of Oceanic Climate Change."

Collaborative team members were chemistry major Tyler Hemingway ('18) of Cape Coral, Fla., biology major Damien Hutchins ('19) of Cherryville, N.C., psychology major Kelsi Williams ('18) of Lincolnton, N.C., and nursing major Hope Still ('19) of Harrisburg, N.C.

English major Mallory Moore ('18) of Maurertown, Va., won a \$3,000 Benedict Graduate Fellowship.

Philosophy and religion major Harley Burgess ('18) of Forest City, N.C., won a \$1,000 Region III graduate fellowship. English major Hannah Ray ('18) of High Point, N.C., won the presentation prize in American literature. English major Emily Eidson ('18) of Augusta, Ga., won the presentation prize in world literature. English education major Sarah Grace Moxley ('18) of Bluefield, Va., won the presentation prize in education. Exercise Science major Gabrielle Cortese ('18) of Athens, Ga., won the presentation prize in exercise science.

## School of Education Students Advocate for Teachers in Washington, D.C.

Students and faculty from the Gardner-Webb University School of Education travelled to Washington, D.C., to tour the city and advocate for educational professionals.

The GWU contingent met with representatives of Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina to share their thoughts on the importance of the education profession. "During the session, the teacher candidates discussed pertinent educational issues and asked questions about upcoming educational policy initiatives," related Dr. Jason Parker, associate dean of the School of Education, who has taken students to meet with Burr's office in the past. "Being able to advocate for the teaching profession aligns directly with the standards for teacher candidates in North Carolina."





# White House Briefings, The EPA and Endangered Languages Provide Fruitful Dialogue

Twenty students represented Gardner-Webb University at the annual conference of the Southern Regional Honors Council (SRHC) held in Arlington, Va. The SRHC promotes and advances honors programs and honors colleges in the Southern United States. Students had the opportunity to explore over 400 presentations, including panel discussions, talks, art works and featured displays.

Gardner-Webb students also met members of the Plant Protection Group of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and had dinner with Patrick Woody ('03), who shared how his time at GWU helped him advance to his current position, in which he briefs White House staff.

The keynote speaker was linguistic anthropologist Dr. K. David Harrison, author of "The Last Speakers: The Quest to Save the World's Endangered Languages."

Biology major Callie Elliott ('19) of Terrell, N.C., was elected as Student Vice-President of SRHC for the next year and will serve at the 2018 National Collegiate Honors Conference in Boston, Mass. She will represent more than 10,000 students at more than 100 institutions with Honors programs in the Southern Region.



Above, Public relations major Alice Byrd ('18) of Asheville, N.C., presented her project "Nerds Abroad: A Semester Spent in Florence."



Left, Biology major Callie Elliott ('19) of Terrell, N.C., (left) and her project partner, photography major Joy Smith ('20), presented: "An Honors Event: Murder Mystery Dinner." Elliott was also elected as Student Vice-President of SRHC for the next year and will serve at the 2018 National Collegiate Honors Conference in Boston, Mass.



## Wonder Dog Demonstrates Science of ATF Investigations

The worlds of science and criminal investigation intersected with a visit from ATF officers and their special agent "Camden the Wonder Dog" during chemistry classes on campus.

Senior Special Agent Darren Solomon with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF) Charlotte Field Division joined forces with Union County Fire Marshal Kevin Rigoli, and ATF K-9 Officer Camden for the presentation. Camden is an Accelerant Detection Canine specially trained to sniff out scents of various liquids that arsonists use to start fires.

During the visit, Camden demonstrated his skills by correctly detecting which canisters contained evidence of an accelerant. Solomon and Rigoli also talked to students about the importance of a strong science foundation within many aspects of law enforcement, particularly within arson investigations.

Lauren Mahoney ('18) earned a degree in criminal justice and sociology, and in the future, she hopes to work as an agent with the State Bureau of Investigation.



"There are so many different kinds of science that are involved in solving these cases," she reflected. "They have different types of scientists for blood, alcohol or drugs, or firearms, you name it. They have

a specialty for everything. It's not just law enforcement and guns, there's science behind it and a social aspect, and you have to put it all together. It's so much more complex than people realize."

## Christian Character and Development are Foundations for WinShape Camp



Officials at Gardner-Webb University have announced a new partnership with WinShape Camps, established in 1985 by Chick-fil-A founder, S. Truett Cathy—allowing the organization to expand its overnight camp offerings into the Carolinas.

In June 2019, Gardner-Webb will become the first location for overnight WinShape camps outside the state of Georgia. WinShape Camps provide a camp experience that enables campers to sharpen their character, deepen their Christian faith, and grow in their relationships with others.

Camps in 2019 will be offered to students who have completed first through fifth grades, with availability for sixth through eighth graders beginning in the 2020 camp season.

WinShape Camps hosts more than 100 day camps across the country, as well as internationally in Brazil and Costa Rica. For more information, visit [winshapecamps.org](http://winshapecamps.org).



# Gardner-Webb University Celebrates Graduates During 2017-2018 Year

## *Nearly 1,000 Students Honored During Four Commencement Ceremonies*

During the 2017-2018 academic year, Gardner-Webb University hosted a total of four commencement ceremonies spanning three different dates: August 5, 2017, December 16, 2017, and May 12, 2018. Nearly 1,000 graduates were honored for earning associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from a variety of university programs.

The August ceremony featured the conferring of the 1,500th RN-BSN degree. The University also bestowed doctoral degrees to graduates in the first cohort of the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership, which launched in 2014. In December, the University conferred its 4,500th Master of Business Administration degree.

Several university milestones were achieved during the May exercises. The Hunt School of Nursing awarded its 4,000th overall degree. In addition, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner programs each bestowed its 100th degree. The Department of Natural Sciences awarded its 500th degree in biology, and the School of Psychology and Counseling conferred its 1,000th bachelor's degree. Gardner-Webb has added on-line commencement streaming for families and friends unable to attend the services via Facebook Live. The University salutes the 2017-2018 graduates and applauds their significant achievements in higher education.





# THIRTY-ONE YEARS: A REMINISCENCE

FRANK BONNER, PRESIDENT

**A**s I approach retirement, I appreciate this opportunity to reflect on the past 31 years at Gardner-Webb University and especially the last 13 years as president. The emotions involved make it difficult, but there is also so much I would like to express that going about it has been a challenge. I stress to students the importance of seeking God's plan for your life. Perhaps that plan is clearest in retrospect, as you look back at the way events unfolded and how some doors closed and others opened.

It has been helpful for me to reflect on the stages of my career and to see them as a continuum. I began my college experience at Furman University in the fall of 1965, fully intending to major in physics. That idea crashed early in my first experience with college level physics. What about biology? I liked it, but my biology professor announced one day that anyone planning to major in biology needed to sign up that afternoon. I was not ready to make what I thought was a commitment. In recent years, I have cautioned students against a bad idea that I held early on—that once you decide on a plan you are locked in and can never change your mind.

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In 1987, Frank Bonner came to Gardner-Webb as Vice President for Academic Affairs. His role later evolved into Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and then Provost and Senior Vice President. He was named the 12th President of Gardner-Webb in May 2005 and took office on July 1.







**"This is truly a great University. It has all the raw materials—purpose, people, mission, and Christian values and unrivaled commitment."**



Seeing some great professors in action, I decided *that* was the life and career I wanted. I might be a dean someday. No, dean was probably out of the question, beyond my reach. But college professor—I could do that. So, what major? History or English? English it was.

Following graduation in 1969, I married the love of my life, Flossie Black, and we packed up and headed to Number 7 Bon Cam Apartments in Athens, Ga., and the University of Georgia, where I began working on my master's degree in English. After my first major graduate school test in Victorian prose (and feeling that I had completely bombed it), I decided I probably was not going to make it and prepared to tell Flossie. When I got my grade, it was 98. Not a failure after all. After earning A's in all but one course, I made a late decision to pursue a PhD at the University of Florida, Vanderbilt or UNC Chapel Hill. I was accepted at all of them. I decided on Chapel Hill, because that was where my dad was earning his PhD when I was born.

The years in Chapel Hill were really great. As a teaching assistant in the English department all four years, it was my introduction to college teaching. Our daughters, Alison and Florence, were born there with me in attendance. Our friends were medical school students, law students and dental graduate students living around us in Glen Lennox Apartments, which are still there today and look just the same. We would baby-sit for each other and while we were not quite as poor as the proverbial church mice, we were very happy. Simple pleasures can be the best. Many years later Flossie and I walked by our former apartment while visiting the area and pondered just how far we had come since the early years of our marriage.

In 1974, we left Chapel Hill for Anderson College (Anderson, S.C.) and my new position in the English department. Florence was about two weeks old, and we joked about her arriving in time to make the trip. I still had a dissertation to write, which I did, and received my PhD in 1977. Those were years made up entirely of teaching, and I loved it. In 1982, two fateful events came together: my election as chairman of the faculty, and the arrival of Mark Hopkins, the new president of the College. Looking back, I probably did not give Mark enough time before I was in his office with my list of faculty concerns. Apparently, I made a good impression on him nonetheless. Mark would often boast of the number of





his former staff members who had gone on to be college presidents, and he said that I would someday join that list. I did not believe it or give it much thought. Shortly after I was named president at Gardner-Webb, Mark wrote me a letter reminding me of that.

That summer (1982), Mark paid me a stipend to write a proposal for a federal grant to renovate the women's residence hall—my very first administrative assignment of any kind. Little did I realize at the time, but that turned out to be the beginning of a career in administration. Later, Mark would dub me “Assistant to the President,” primarily with more grant-writing responsibility. Later, at his request, I filled in as Registrar for a while. I really did not want to do that, but I did. It was a lesson I have passed on to students ever since—never refuse a task assigned by your boss—assuming it is legal, moral and ethical. When I was hired by Gardner-Webb to become the new vice president for Academic Affairs, I left my post as associate dean for Special Programs at Anderson.

I have discovered that when one is upon retirement, after 31 years at the same institution and 44 years full time in the profession, a lot of reflection takes place. Perhaps it is normal to think about regrets, about all the things I wish I had done, the things I should have done better or at least differently, and, of course, mistakes I made—and there were quite a few. It is strange, perhaps ironic, that it is at the end of your career that you are in the best position to plan it if you had it to do over. While I have certainly reflected on things I should have done better, I will instead offer thoughts on some lesser-known achievements.

First are the intangible accomplishments, some of which may not be well known or are perhaps forgotten. The first of these is the promotion of a strong sense of purpose. Every institution has a mission; yet few stress purpose. Purpose is the ‘raison d’être’—the reason or justification for existence. If we do not know and understand that, then why *do* we think the institution exists? Gardner-Webb's purpose, I believe, is to advance the kingdom of God through Christian higher education. Other faith-based institutions advance the kingdom of God; we are charged to do that in the arena of higher education. There are, of course, many other institutions of higher education. This purpose is what sets us apart.

The formal affiliation change with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) is worthy of mention. I have continuously stressed that this was the formation of a new relationship, and that should be the focus, not *separation*. In the words of our bylaws, it is a mutually-voluntary affiliation, and one that I believe is actually better and more constructive for both institutions. We had been fortunate in North Carolina that our formal relationship with the Convention never







really threatened academic freedom, as that kind of relationship had in other states, but I was concerned about protecting academic freedom into the future. BSCNC and Gardner-Webb can now be mutually supportive—and friends—with overlapping missions but without the tensions involved in the former relationship and all of its implications. My work and involvement in the effort served to protect academic freedom at Gardner-Webb, and I regard it as one of my most important contributions and achievements.

Other intangible accomplishments would include continuing to stress the importance of academic excellence as the vital ingredient of success, strengthening and emphasizing the *student-centered* essence of Gardner-Webb, development and promulgation of the “brand” of the University, and the establishment of a formal marketing effort.

Aside from the addition of new buildings, programs and academic infrastructure, by far the most important accomplishments are not those of mine or any other president or, for that matter, any single individual. The greatest accomplishments are those of the entire University family in the shaping and enriching of the lives of so many students over the years. It is people that make Gardner-Webb University truly great—students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and friends of the University. Faculty and staff nurture, mentor and support students, and they go on not only to live meaningful and fulfilling lives of their own, but also to make other people’s lives better in innumerable and various ways. They make our society, our world, a better place, a better place than they found it, and in so doing carry out Gardner-Webb’s purpose, “To Advance the Kingdom of God through Christian Higher Education.” They truly embody our motto, *Pro Deo et Humanitate*, For God and Humanity. The implementation of the Hope Scholarship is just one powerful example of our students’ heart and commitment. It was after many of them had become profoundly aware of the plight of victims of human trafficking that they asked if the University could do something in response. The Hope Scholarship was established. It provides a full-ride scholarship to carefully-selected individuals, offering them ongoing attention and support.

This is truly a great University. It has all the raw materials—purpose, people, mission, and Christian values and unrivaled commitment. To borrow a phrase from Shakespeare, “the elements so mixed” that greatness is here. Time and again, I have tried to express my belief that Gardner-Webb has unlimited potential. There are challenges ahead, but Gardner-Webb’s finest days are still to come. To have had a part in this journey, in this wonderful undertaking, has been for me both a privilege and a great joy.



## PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP:

# Successes and Accomplishments during the Bonner Era (2005-2018)

- The Higher Ground Capital campaign became the highest yielding fund-raising effort in the history of Gardner-Webb, bringing in more than \$45 million in contributions.
- The largest enrollment in Gardner-Webb history, nearly 5,000 students.
- The addition of the College of Health Sciences facility (houses the Hunt School of Nursing, Physician Assistant Studies, and Exercise Science).
- The addition of Frank Nanney Hall (houses the Noel Center for Disability Services and the Department of Social Sciences).
- The addition of the Science Laboratory Center.
- The addition of the Tucker Student Center.
- The addition of the Loy Theatre Scene Shop (adjacent to Dover Theatre).
- The addition of several new residence facilities for traditional undergraduates.
- The purchase of the Gardner-Webb University Charlotte Center.
- Academic program growth and development brought in new majors, degrees and program launches (including: Doctor of Nursing Practice, Doctor of Business Administration, Family Nurse Practitioner, several Doctor of Education degrees, the Physician Assistant Studies Program, 10-month Master of Business Administration, Accelerated RN-BSN, Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership, School of Performing and Visual Arts, School of Psychology and Counseling, Criminal Justice for traditional undergraduates, Graphic Design, Birth-to-Kindergarten).
- Launched the Summer Scholars Research Program.
- Launched the GWU Education Hall of Fame (recognizing educational professionals throughout the nation who have had significant impact in both their field and in the community at large).



College of Health Sciences

Frank Nanney Hall



Gardner-Webb University Charlotte Center



Tucker Student Center



Impact Center





- Gardner-Webb consistently recognized nationally in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.
- Academic programs have received numerous national honors and awards for outstanding commitment to students and scholarship.
- Gardner-Webb honored for support of the military as a Purple Heart University (the first in North Carolina).
- Received funding to name the Godbold School of Business and the Hunt School of Nursing.
- Launched and gained donor support for the Impact Center, focusing on Christian ethics and social responsibility.
- Launched the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.
- Launched the Center for Innovative Leadership Development.
- Relaunched Gardner-Webb University Marching Band.
- Funding, construction and renovations for the John Henry Moss Stadium and the David and Marie Brinkley Softball Stadium.
- Added the Women's Lacrosse team.
- GWU joined the Big South Conference as a full member for athletics.
- Men's soccer team earned NCAA Division I bid after winning Atlantic Sun Conference tournament (the first ever for the program at Division I).
- Women's basketball team won Big South Conference tournament and gains bid to the NCAA Tournament (the first ever for the program at Division I).
- Men's basketball team defeated nationally ranked Kentucky to gain national exposure for GWU.
- Physical campus enhancements included major landscaping, new paver walkways, new sidewalks around Stadium Drive, walkway lighting for safety, the Bridges Gate welcome entrance, and exterior digital billboards.





# CALL ME 'FLOSSIE'

BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL AND JACKIE BRIDGES

**S**he's barely 5-feet tall, but one should not be fooled by her stature. Although she is as down-to-earth as they come, Florence "Flossie" Bonner, wife of Gardner-Webb University's 12th president, Dr. Frank Bonner, is leaving her successor with some pretty big shoes to fill.

She was a force in the classroom, having taught complicated algebraic equations to Shelby (N.C.) High School students for nearly 20 years. Today, more than a decade after she retired from teaching, former students still call her "Mrs. Bonner." Even though she repeatedly encouraged one young man, "Call me 'Flossie,'" he just couldn't bring himself to do so.

When Dr. Bonner became GWU president in 2005, his new role put her more in the spotlight at campus events, but she focused her energies on being his confidant and encourager.



"My role is to support Frank and be an ambassador in the community," she explained. "I've enjoyed every minute of that."

She has served on the GWU campus wherever needed, offering a smile and handshake to visitors and praising the exceptional work of students. Through the years, she's made time for other important endeavors in Cleveland County, N.C. She has served as president of the Junior Charity League and on the boards of the YMCA and Eat Smart, Move More. She and Frank are members of First Baptist Church in Shelby, and she shares her talents on committees there as well.

"I've had a really good life," she declared. "The people of Gardner-Webb and the greater Shelby area have been so good to us."

In 2019, after more than three decades of work at Gardner-Webb and 13 years as president, Dr. Frank Bonner will retire. Next August, he and Flossie will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Reflecting on their lives together—the first time they met, their dating years, family vacations, camping and other adventures—Flossie smiled and stated, "We've had fun."

Flossie is approachable and friendly. Her contagious energy and kindness are among her most endearing qualities. In fact, she became so popular among students that one Student Government Association (SGA) presidential candidate utilized her name in his campaign speech. After naming several of the reasons he felt students should vote for him, he spontaneously added, "And I'm endorsed by Flossie Bonner!" He won the election. "Frank and I thought that was so funny," she related. "We will never forget him."

In retirement, the Bonners are looking forward to traveling more, and visiting their grandchildren. She would like to visit Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Alaska and some other locations, but the Bonner's home base will be Shelby. "After 32 years here, this is our home," Flossie asserted.

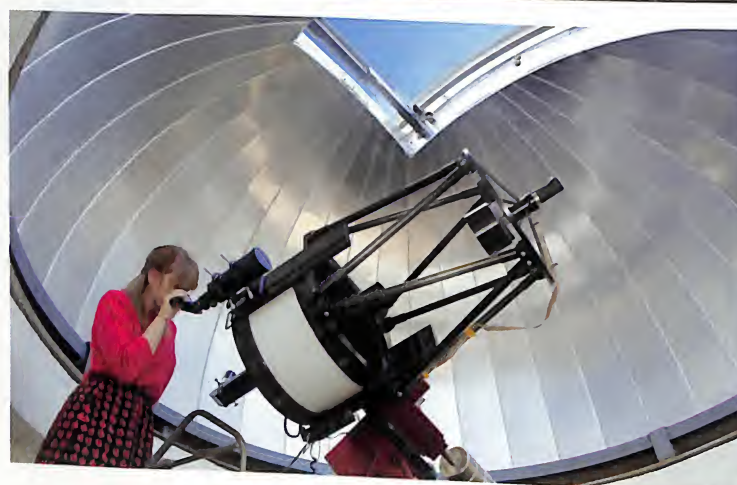
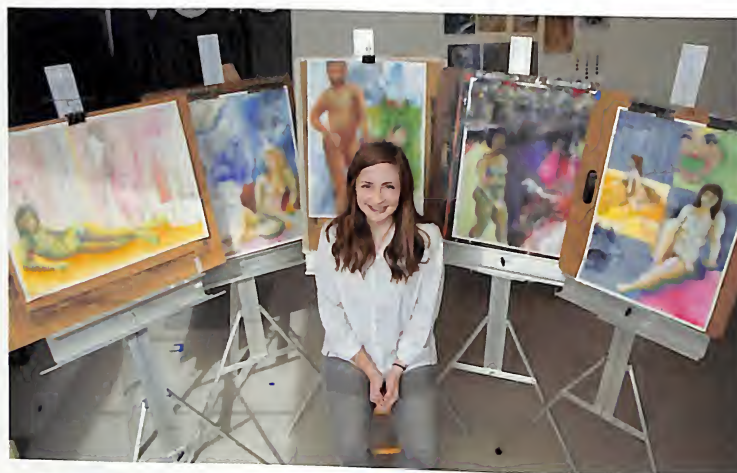
They also plan to continue the healthy habits started years ago: eating nutritious foods and exercising six days a week. She runs 1.5 miles in the morning before meeting a group of friends to walk another



5 miles. She also lifts weights, works out on the elliptical machine, and plays pickle ball. She and Frank often spend Sunday afternoons on the golf course. Her guilty pleasure is to skip a workout and indulge in a gooey dessert. "That rarely happens," she acknowledged. "But if I had a chance to eat my mom's homemade cobbler, that would definitely be hard to say no to."

What has she liked most about Gardner-Webb? She doesn't skip a beat. "The people," she affirmed. "Faculty, staff and certainly the students. The faculty and staff are so focused on the students. They are always there for them. Faculty members don't just teach the students, they want each one to be a better person. Gardner-Webb's greatest asset is definitely the people."





# Hurricanes, Mental Disorders & Post-apocalyptic Insights

Gardner-Webb Students Immersed in Scholarly Research

BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL & JACKIE BRIDGES

In 2012, Gardner-Webb University's first Undergraduate Summer Research Scholar, Jeremy Griffin, examined the properties of ginger ale. The experience led to graduate school for the 2013 alumnus and the opportunity for his doctoral research to be published in the top chemistry journals around the world.

Griffin is just one of many Summer Research Scholars who have benefitted from the program. Others have received scholarships to Ph.D. programs, similar benefits or exciting opportunities, such as an internship with Oscar-winning film score composer Hans Zimmer or studying lemurs in Madagascar.

The program was developed by Dr. June Hobbs, director of Undergraduate Research at GWU. Each year, the opportunity has been offered to more students.

As part of their research projects, scholars spend five weeks of a summer term on campus working on their topics for 40 hours a week. At the same time, students are mentored by a dedicated faculty member, who provides information and guidance to ensure a successful research experience for the scholar. Each researcher also presents at a professional conference or setting.

Here's a look at the scholars from the 2017-2018 academic year who are as varied in their interests as they are talented.



## Ruthie Lievsay '18

### *Uses Artistic Talents to Explore Mental Disorders*



While working on her research project, Ruthie Lievsay challenged herself academically and creatively. After assessing 10 mental disorders using the principles of Positive Psychology, she illustrated each one. Positive Psychology focuses on the characteristics and virtues that enable individuals, communities and organizations to thrive.

"The idea was to discuss and portray visually in my paintings the strengths that can be seen in different disorders rather than focus on the pathology of them the way most psychology professionals do," explained Lievsay, a native of Mount Airy, N.C.

Through her research, she realized the illnesses shared similar positive traits. "I used the VIA Classification of Strengths, which is a list of 24 strengths based on research by Peterson and Seligman. Persistence, prudence, self-regulation and open mindedness are all strengths necessary to persevere through therapy and make huge strides against a mental disorder," Lievsay shared.

"One major challenge was trying to portray more mental or emotional strengths visually in the form of a figure. I used some principles of art in order to make them stand out, like making them contrast against the background and having them be dominant compositionally."



## Mallory Moore '18

### *Examines Themes of Suicide and Depression in Modern Films*

Gardner-Webb University alumna, Mallory Moore, of Maurertown, Va., is currently pursuing a master's degree in film studies at the University of Chicago, thanks in part, to her undergraduate research. Mentored by Dr. Teresa Phillips, GWU associate professor of Spanish, Moore investigated

intersections between feminist theory, film criticism, and depression/suicidal ideation.

"I became interested in the subject when I took Dr. Phillips' course 'Girls Gone Mad,' where we studied women's madness in foreign films," explained Moore, an English major. "I began to learn about feminist theorizing on mental illness in women, and these theories changed my own perspective on mental illness—specifically depression. I wanted to study films produced in my lifetime and answer the question, 'Are these films an oppressive force for women with depression or a liberating voice?'"

Moore watched 15 films, and her greatest challenge was narrowing her scope. She decided to use Phyllis Chesler's "Women and Madness" as her primary source of feminist theory.

Although coming to a conclusion wasn't easy, Moore established some important takeaways. "I discovered that while these films send good messages of hope and freedom to women struggling with depression, they are not necessarily good educational tools for the general public," she explained. "In general, these films can teach women and girls who are struggling that the best path to mental health is individuality and self-acceptance."



## Caroline Burnette '18

### *Gains Insight on Victorian-Era Gender Roles and Mental Illness Perceptions*

Ideas about Victorian-era gender roles and their association with insanity intrigued a Gardner-Webb University English graduate. Caroline Burnette, of Asheville, N.C., was mentored by Dr. June Hobbs, professor of English and director of Undergraduate Research at Gardner-Webb.

Burnette examined the correlation between gender roles and the treatment of mental illness in women during the Victorian era through critical analysis of Charlotte Perkins



Gilman's classic short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper." Although she felt fairly confident in what she would discover, Burnette's findings went far beyond her initial expectations.

"I came into the program with a fairly-developed idea of what I was going to find," she explained, "but the results changed drastically by the time my project was finished. I set out to research gender bias, and what I discovered was an entire social movement directed at infantilizing and regressing women, particularly through a medical treatment known as the 'rest cure' and bogus diagnoses like 'hysteria' and 'neurasthenia.' [These explanations were] designed to further the stereotype that women were fragile, delicate, hysterical and totally dependent on men."

### Summer Byers '18

*Combines Research Efforts with Creative Writing to Produce Young-Adult Science Fiction*



English alumna Summer Byers, of Forest City, N.C., studied young-adult science fiction and began developing an original piece of genre fiction. "My research began as an examination of sci-fi feminism," she explained, "but it slowly evolved to encompass agency, identity, technophobia and post-humanism within the genre."

Byers conducted a genre study and analyzed several young-adult science fiction novels. "I read books such as 'Never Let Me Go,' 'Ender's Game,' and 'Sphere,' in addition to working on my own novel," she shared. "Outside of my novel study, I read sources that focused on key themes of the genre—such as identity—and observed how these themes were conveyed in novels."

For Byers, establishing a basic overview of the young-adult science fiction genre and developing a better understanding of the creative writing process revealed new insights within a genre she already loved. "I learned that young-adult science fiction focuses on addressing how advancements in society impact a young person's sense of self and understanding of their place in a rapidly-changing world."

### Aaron Hilton '18

*Explores Writing Post-apocalyptic Fiction*



Gardner-Webb University English alumnus Aaron Hilton, of Winston-Salem, N.C., developed an original piece of post-apocalyptic fiction during his research experience. Mentored by Dr. Chris Davis, GWU professor of English, Hilton began his project with an in-depth study of the literature.

"As with any genre, post-apocalyptic fiction is a complicated affair with many connections to other genres," he explained. "I think post-apocalyptic narratives are intriguing avenues for self-exploration, which raise meaningful questions about our values and what it means to be human. I discovered some literature that presented unique scenarios and unearthed sub-genres of which I was formerly unaware."

Hilton focused on completing an original piece of work in the genre based upon his survey of the field. "I spent a lot of time reading other works within the genre to see what techniques other authors employed in shaping their own narratives," he offered. "I then turned to my own writing and applied some of the observed techniques. I did a good deal of reading about weapons and survival techniques to make my story believable."

For Hilton, the hands-on aspect of the research process was extremely rewarding. "This project presented me with a chance to dive into the world of writing," he reflected. "I see this as a potential kick-off point for a publishing career and necessary experience should I wish to pursue a teaching licensure in creative writing."



### Ethan Ramsey '18

*Asks the Question, 'Whose American Revolution Was It?'*

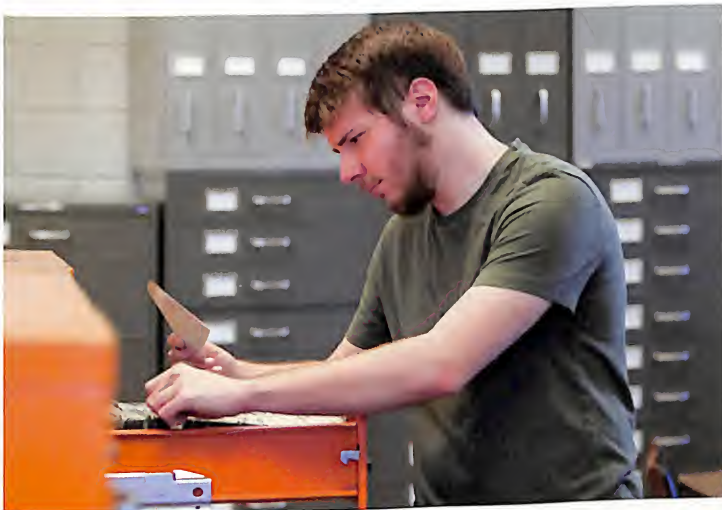
Ethan Ramsey, a history alumnus with minors in education and social science, focused his undergraduate research on his favorite time period: the American Revolution.

"Most of my research required me digging in to primary sources about the American Revolution, mainly searching online and through books," elaborated Ramsey, a native of Robbinsville, N.C. "My biggest challenge was to make the primary sources relevant to my future students."

His findings revealed several different perspectives on the American Revolution, and he will ask students to thoughtfully consider, "Whose American Revolution was it?" As an example, Ramsey offered, "One of the interesting questions is, 'Who was offering true freedom?' The sources reveal for Africans/African Americans, the decision of who to support was complicated, especially after Lord Dunmore's proclamation (offering freedom to slaves who agreed to fight for the British). For Native Americans, looking back, Britain would have been most beneficial."

Ramsey's insights and research will provide opportunities to challenge students to reexamine long-held facts in a brand new light.





### **Dalton Blackmon '18**

#### *Uncovers Interesting Information on Black Economic Life in the Post-Civil War Era*

Conducting scholarly research is like looking for buried treasure, which is what Gardner-Webb University graduate Dalton Blackmon uncovered in his study on black economic life in Atlanta, Ga., during Reconstruction, 1865-1880. "I chose this topic, because I had done previous research on slavery in Atlanta during which I made many surprising discoveries," shared Blackmon, who is from Canton, Ga. "I wanted to see if what I found in the antebellum times lasted into the Reconstruction era."

One challenge Blackmon faced was gaining access to the documents he needed. The research center where many of the materials were housed was unavailable to Blackmon at the time. Instead, he relied on studying archived newspapers that were accessible online, dissertations related to his topic, and old city directories. He researched and documented living conditions, occupations, business, crime and government control.

Because of the interesting information he uncovered, Blackmon changed his topic to mapping black businesses in Atlanta during Reconstruction. This pivot in his research allowed for a much richer project overall.

"Digital mapping is a major development in the social sciences, so is racial history in the West and Reconstruction. My work covers all three of these."

### **Eli Hardin '18**

#### *Studies Hurricane Katrina Evacuation by Analyzing Primary Resources*

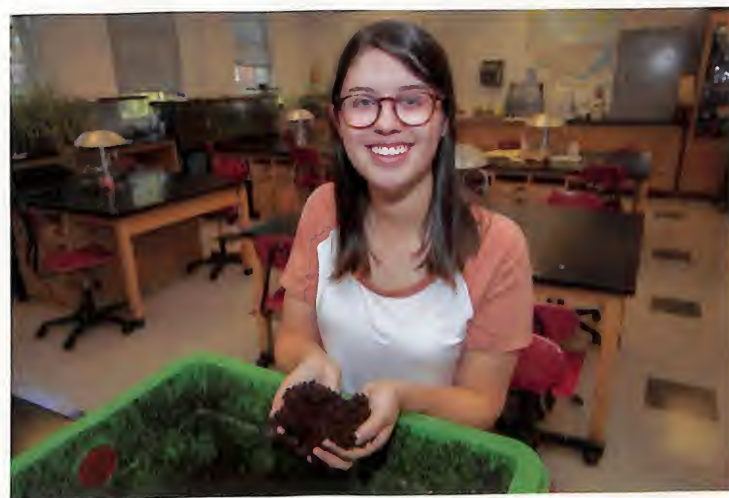


Hurricane Katrina battered the gulf coast in August 2005, and according to the National Weather Service, killed nearly 2,000 people in Louisiana and Mississippi. The response to the storm has been studied by many scholars and reviewed through cultural and political lenses in the decade plus since its occurrence. A review of New Orleans' evacuation procedures hasn't

received the attention it deserves, according to one research scholar. Gardner-Webb alumnus, Eli Hardin, of Boiling Springs, N.C., decided to focus his research on the factors that led up to thousands of New Orleans' residents being stranded after the storm.

A political science major with a minor in biblical studies, Hardin studied primary documents from the mayor's office in New Orleans, including correspondence with federal officials. "One key source I used was the transcript of the mayor's testimony to the U.S. Senate," Hardin noted. "I also relied on the New Orleans local newspaper, 'The Times-Picayune,' to give insight to the information that was being received by locals as the event unfolded. I also relied heavily on the U.S. House of Representatives investigation and report on Hurricane Katrina."

His analysis of the documents led Hardin to wonder if mistakes were made by New Orleans' officials before the storm. "It was not surprising that the city was not fully evacuated because everyone saw that on TV in 2005. What was surprising, however, was the realization that most of those who remained did not have to, had the city acted differently leading up to the storm."



### **Sarah Branch Ramsey '18**

#### *Develops Plan on Environmental Sustainability*

Sarah Branch Ramsey wanted to find out what Gardner-Webb University is doing to promote environmental sustainability. Her Undergraduate Summer Research Project looked at six main categories of sustainability practices, and she discovered that her University is taking steps to reduce energy and water use and decrease carbon dioxide emissions. Ramsey presented her findings at the GWU Life of the Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference.

"What GWU can work on most is waste diversion and reduction and the use of chemicals," noted Ramsey, a Pilot Mountain, N.C., native. "A simple practice that the University can implement is composting, specifically, vermicomposting (the use of worms to break down organic material). This will reduce the waste that



is being dumped into the landfill and will be beneficial to use as fertilizer and mulch around campus, thereby reducing the chemicals used for fertilizer.”

Ramsey hopes to use her practical research to help mission organizations develop sustainability practices. “I have had one mission organization express interest in the composting aspect of my research, so I would love to be able to support existing organizations in that way as well.”



### Rachael Meachem '19

*Combines Research Efforts with Service-Learning Project to Help Underprivileged Kids Remove Obstacles to Education*

The knowledge that kids in poverty face unique educational challenges prompted Rachel Meachem to personally investigate deeper questions about the most effective ways to remove obstacles, meet needs, and develop the intellect of low-income, elementary students.

A sociology major from Wadesboro, N.C., Meachem presented her research at the GWU Life of the Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference.

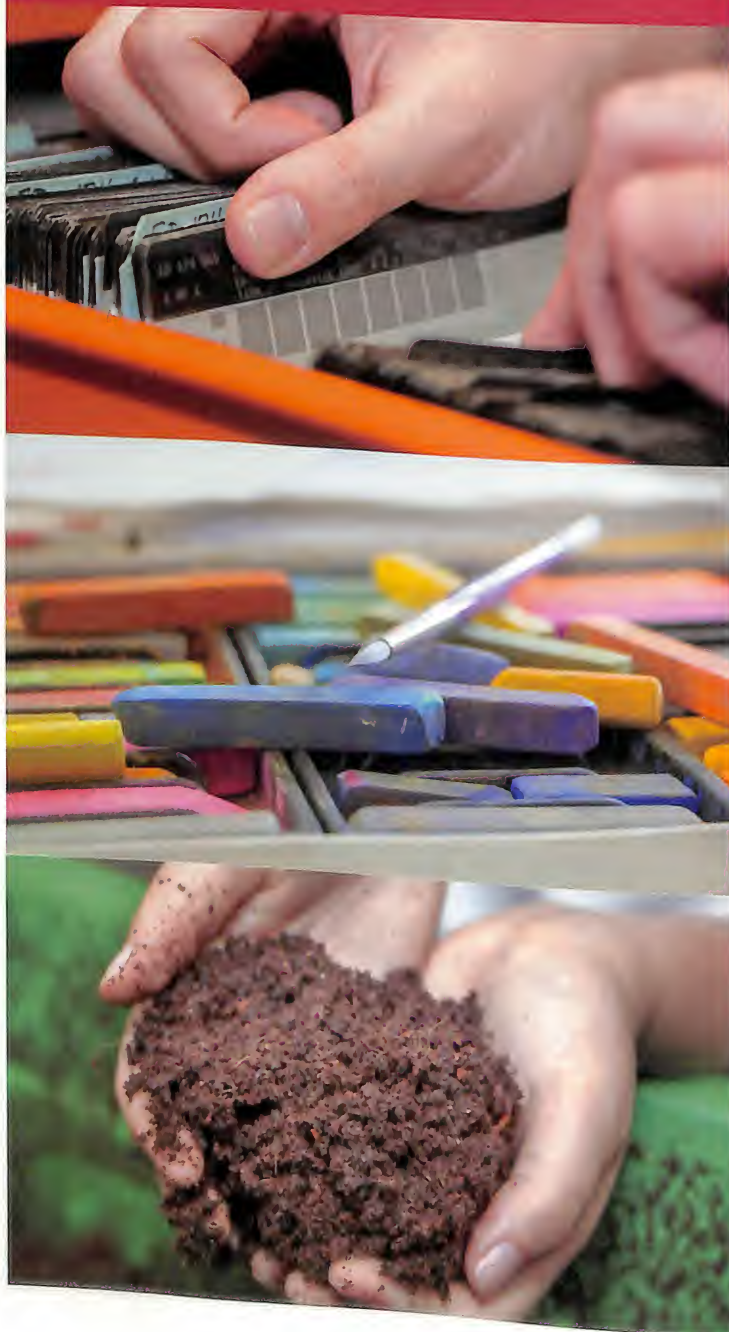
Her project involved helping underprivileged kids at Graham Elementary School in Shelby, N.C. “My goal was to better understand the obstacles to education in circumstances of poverty,” she explained. “I hoped to give back to the community by illustrating better ways to understand and nurture the needs of students at Graham Elementary School.”

Because of their year-round schedule, Graham Elementary was an excellent resource for the service-learning component of her project. “In addition to academics, many students struggle with developmental skills like teamwork, compliance with authority and hyperactivity. I definitely believe this experience has given me knowledge to better understand where people come from and how they manage problems and challenges differently.”

### Vision for the future

The Gardner-Webb University Undergraduate Research Scholars Program funded a total of 13 student-scholars for the 2018-19 academic program, which represents the greatest number of scholars in the program's history.

June Hobbs, director of Undergraduate Research, has the vision of increasing the research opportunities for GWU students and hopes to facilitate the program's continued expansion. “Without question,” she shared, “these projects are a very important way we can add value to the overall educational experience for our students.”







## Alex Simmons Takes the Court as New Women's Basketball Coach

**G**ardner-Webb University named Alex Simmons the head coach of the women's basketball program. Simmons comes to Gardner-Webb after assistant coaching stints at Ole Miss (2013-2018) and Middle Tennessee State (2010-2013). She also served as a graduate assistant coach at Kansas (2009-2010).

The Shelbyville, Tenn., native also spent time as interim head coach at Ole Miss.

"I am ecstatic to be the head coach of the women's basketball team at Gardner-Webb University," said Simmons. "This is an opportunity that I have worked for my whole life, and God could not have chosen a better place for me and my

family. The University and surrounding community afford any student-athlete a chance to experience a family atmosphere, along with an opportunity to compete for championships in the Big South Conference. I am very excited for the future of Gardner-Webb women's basketball."



**"This is an opportunity that I have worked for my whole life, and God could not have chosen a better place for me and my family."**



Simmons was named to the WBCA Thirty Under Thirty Top Assistant Coaches' list in 2017 and, as director of recruiting, reeled in three consecutive top-20 classes for Ole Miss. She also mentored a pair of All-SEC performers during her time with the Rebels.

"This search produced several very strong candidates, and we are very pleased to have Alex Simmons on board," said Vice President for Athletics Chuck Burch. "Her basketball knowledge, her strength of faith, and her overall character provide an excellent fit for Gardner-Webb University and the student-athletes she will lead. We are also very appreciative of the strong foundation, on and off the court, laid by Coach Rick Reeves during his 14 seasons. He left the program in much better shape than he found it."

Simmons is an established leader on and off the court. While at Middle Tennessee State, Simmons helped the Blue Raiders to three NCAA Tournament appearances during her time on the bench. Her work with the team's post players produced an honorable mention All-America selection, and in 2011-2012 saw the Blue Raiders grab the most rebounds since 1983.

Simmons' basketball roots run deeply to the most respected places in the game.

She played collegiately at the University of Tennessee under basketball Hall of Famer Pat Summitt from 2004-2009, helping the Lady Vols win a pair of NCAA Division I National Championships (2007, 2008).

Simmons played on three Final Four squads (2005, 2007-2008) and another

Elite Eight team (2006), serving as a team captain and the Lady Vols representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Simmons was a high school star at one of the nation's most storied prep programs, earning Tennessee Miss Basketball honors at Shelbyville (Tenn.) High in 2004. She earned WBCA All-American honors and played in both the WBCA and McDonald's All-America Games following her senior season. Simmons was also tabbed an All-America player by Street & Smith's (2nd team) and was a *USA Today* and Student Sports Junior All-America in 2003.

Also an honorable mention Street & Smith's All-America selection in 2001 and 2002, Simmons helped the Golden Eaglettes to state championships in 2001, 2003 and 2004. She was a three-time All-State selection, four-time All-District choice, and she was named Mid-State Player of the Year in 2003.

On the AAU circuit, Simmons was named a 16U All-American in 2003 and helped her team to a third-place finish at AAU Nationals and a first-place finish at AAU Junior Nationals.

She graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2008 with a degree in exercise science. Simmons and her husband, Christian, have two daughters, Carsyn and Channing.

"Her character, personality, coaching foundation and her experience as a player at the national championship level make her great for our student-athletes and Gardner-Webb University," said Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner.





# Three GWU Student-Athletes Honored by Big South Conference

Athletes Received Prestigious Recognition for Academic Achievement

BY MARC RABB

## Gabrielle Cortese

**Cortese**, of Palm Bay, Fla., was the 2017 Big South Women's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and was GWU's top cross country performer throughout 2017. She set the school record in the two-mile run at 12:00.44, and posted Top-10 career times in indoor track competition in the 1,000-meter run (3:20.34), 3,000-meter run (10:38.38), one-mile run (5:20.83), and the 5,000-meter run (18:39.08). Cortese also ranks in the Top 10 in the following outdoor events: 1,500-meter run (4:59.31), 3,000-meter run (11:02.65), and the 5,000-meter run (18:32.06).



## Jessica Ferguson

**Ferguson**, of Lawrence, Kan., appeared in 16 matches with five starts in 2017, and scored her lone goal in a 1-1 draw against Longwood, which came in the 71st minute and gave Gardner-Webb a 1-0 lead. Ferguson took nine shots with four on goal in 834 minutes played during her senior season. For her career, she played in 70 contests with 18 starts and scored nine goals with six assists for 24 points.



## Keaton Poole

**Poole**, of Spindale, N.C., was voted Big South Men's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year as a junior and senior, and was GWU's top cross country performer in 2017. He set personal records this past season in the 5K at 16:08 and the 8K at 26:26, which ranked as the eighth-fastest time in that event in GWU history. Poole ranks in Gardner-Webb's Top 10 in the 3,000-meter run (9:08.98), 5,000-meter run (15:40.81), and one-mile run (4:29.60) in indoor track competition, as well as the outdoor 5,000 meter run (15:57.80).



The 2017-2018 honorees mark the fourth-consecutive year Gardner-Webb has seen a student-athlete earn the award.













Glenn Henson, above left, participates in a ceremony to honor veterans in Vienna, W.Va. Below, Henson lied about his age to fight in World War II.

# Steady in the Storm

GWU Alumnus Changes Course to go From High School Drop Out to Senior Engineer

BY JACKIE BRIDGES





*"I must go down to the seas again,  
to the lonely sea and the sky, where the  
wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star  
to steer her by."*

**T**hese words from "Sea Fever," by poet John Masefield (1916) have echoed in Glenn Henson's mind through the challenges in his life. The 92-year-old World War II veteran—who lives in Vienna, W.Va.,—heard the poem recited many times by Phillip Lovin Elliott, president of Gardner-Webb University from 1943 to 1961.

"In chapel, Elliott would say, 'We've got some things to do,' and he would recite the poem," recalled Henson, a 1953 graduate. "He said the lines with conviction, and it made an impression on me. It meant that he was determined to do something right and to do it well."

The words inspired and resonated with Henson, perhaps because of some difficult times in his life: failing the sixth grade, dropping out of high school to serve in World War II and finishing school after the war. Seven years before hearing those words in chapel, a 17-year-old Henson and some friends lied about their ages to join the Marines. His unit was headed for Japan when the atomic bombs were dropped. The ship was rerouted to North China, where the soldiers attempted to supervise the transition of power. "The Chinese nationalists welcomed us, but the Chinese communists didn't like us," Henson revealed. "Thirty-two men were killed in my regiment over a three-month period."

On the way back home to Rutherford County, N.C., Henson witnessed one more death, a Marine who had been rescued from a Chinese prison. They buried him in the Western Pacific. The somber service is etched in Henson's mind as well as the chaplain's request for the men to write letters to the soldier's family, who expected a joyful reunion, not the devastating news that he wasn't coming home.

Once home, Henson worked in a textile mill for a year, and then he and some friends decided to finish school. They were



Clockwise, Glenn Henson at age 14, before he dropped out of school; at Dupont in 1966; and at Gardner-Webb in 1953 with the counselor for boys, Miss Oster Whisnant Shytte. Henson is the second from the right.

allowed to return, but would adhere to the same rules as the younger students. Henson worked hard, graduated in two years, and he enrolled at the Boiling Springs school. "Gardner-Webb had good teachers – some of the best in the country," Henson shared. "I got a good foundation from the demands that were made. You had to meet requirements for conduct and academics."

Prepared for the next step, Henson went to N.C. State University in Raleigh, N.C., and obtained his bachelor's in mechanical engineering. He landed a job with DuPont's Savannah River Plant, a nuclear facility in Aiken, S.C. In 1962, he transferred to a new plastics plant built by DuPont in Vienna, W. Va. He and his wife, Frances Ann, joined Vienna Baptist Church, and he volunteered in the community, serving on boards and lending his expertise to city projects.

The couple had four sons, and he coached little league baseball. When a city leader asked him about starting a new youth sport,

Henson suggested soccer. He helped start the league and coached for 15 years. Their community honored Henson and four veterans by placing their pictures on a monument recognizing Gold Star families whose

loved ones died while serving in the military during wartime. "He has done so much for this community and this church, and he has done it freely," praised Dennis Pratt, associate pastor of Vienna Baptist. "I don't know anybody who doesn't speak highly of him."

Henson retired from DuPont as a senior engineer after 29 years in Vienna for a total of 37 years with the company. He helped design the machinery to manufacture Teflon, Nylon and Butacite, a plastic that goes inside safety plate windshields. Henson is an example of how engineers solve problems, be it for your career, your community or for yourself. "It was almost always a challenge," Henson reflected. "If it didn't work right, you had to make it work right." During those trying times at work or in life when things didn't go as planned, Henson recalled the voice of Phillip Lovin Elliott repeating the words, "I must go down to the seas again..."





Stan Law, GWU alumnus, became president and chief executive officer of the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina in 2017.

# “Won’t You be my Neighbor?”

Stan Law '85 Believes his GWU Liberal Arts Education was Essential for his Immersion into Life Experiences

BY JACKIE BRIDGES

**A**s President and Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina in Winston-Salem—the third largest YMCA in the state—Stan Law’s position requires him to be a skilled communicator, despite identifying as an introvert. Whenever he stands up in front of an audience, the 1985 alumnus of Gardner-Webb University connects with people by following the example of Dr. Tony Eastman, GWU professor emeritus of history. “Dr. Eastman was absolutely amazing,” Law affirmed. “He was a storyteller. I had him for several 8 a.m. classes that were an hour and 15 minutes long. You were on the edge of your seat the entire time. He told stories and never opened a textbook. I learned that I liked history, and as a natural extreme introvert, my communication style is telling stories. They are my stories, and I am comfortable speaking about them in public. I have made a lot of presentations in my career, and those that go best are the ones about my experiences versus just stating a bunch of facts.”



## "I said, 'Dad when I grow up, I want to help people like that.' I never considered doing anything else but helping people."

Law has worked in various roles with the Y and moved to his current position in March 2017. The association has a \$35 million-dollar budget, 16 branches and provides programs for more than 150,000 adults and children. Law is the first African American to hold this position in the organization's 128-year history.

He started his Y career in 1990 in his hometown of Charlotte, N.C., and has served the organization in Washington, D.C., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Birmingham, Ala. The Y's mission aligned perfectly with his own desire to help people, a passion he embraced as a fifth-grader when he noticed other kids in his class picking on a twin brother and sister who wore the same clothes every day.

Bothered by what he observed, Law asked his parents why the twins didn't have more clothes. His father showed him some of the run-down houses near their neighborhood and explained that sometimes, because of choices or circumstances, people don't have enough money to pay the bills and buy clothes. "We came back home and my dad asked me if I had any more questions," Law recalled. "I said, 'Dad when I grow up, I want to help people like that.' I never considered doing anything else but helping people."

He majored in social science and played tennis at Gardner-Webb. He liked the size of the University and the campus atmosphere felt right. "I needed an environment where there were not too many distractions," Law said. "At GWU,

I could balance playing tennis with my studies. The sociology, psychology and history classes were critical to my career, because working in communities I have learned that if you don't understand the history of the community, you can't understand the people."

Law believes the classes in Gardner-Webb's liberal arts core curriculum prepared him for the various responsibilities in his daily schedule. "The diversity of skills that a liberal arts college teaches you has certainly helped me lead the YMCA," Law assessed. "I average seven to eight meetings a day. One meeting, I could be helping to design a building; the next minute, I could be in a conversation trying to help counsel a kid. The next, I could be trying to set up a partnership with another organization."

The math and economics courses he took at GWU also provided him a foundation to expand his management skills. "I have been blessed to have all these opportunities with the Y, and I learned early on that in a leadership position you don't have to know everything; you have to know a little bit about everything," Law reflected. "You have to lean on those who are specialists in a particular area."



When speaking to groups, Stan Law follows the example of Dr. Tony Eastman, professor emeritus of history, who amazed students with his storytelling.





# AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY



Major Terri Lopez Homestead '07 is First Female Officer to Serve as Tactical Crew Director at Fort Greely, Alaska

BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

**G**ardner-Webb University alumna Maj. Terri Lopez Homestead ('07) has never been one to shy away from adventure. In fact, for most of her life, she has engaged in what can only be described as unusual, exciting and even hazardous activities. Her philosophy is "to take advantage of every opportunity that is given"—especially when the road ahead seems difficult.

She is currently stationed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and is the first female crew leader for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska National Guard. Her daily mission as a National Guard officer is to defend the United States against

intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) attacks.

The work, she says, is very rewarding. "The saying is, 'We are the 300 defending the 300 million.' Our crews are able to track, intercept and destroy the nuclear weapon warhead of an incoming ICBM in its mid-course flight, outside the earth's atmosphere. This is a 24-7, 365-days-a-year mission."

Adventure has always been a way of life for Homestead. As a child, her family immigrated to the United States from Mexico. After settling in San Diego, Calif., she learned to speak English and excelled in sports—specifically in track and field.



## **"If you want to be part of a community that genuinely cares about you and your success, Gardner-Webb is the place to be,"**

She started pole vaulting in high school and competed in junior college as well.

She was attending Cuyamaca Community College (El Cajon, Calif.) when she was recruited to pole vault at Gardner-Webb University. The thought of moving across the country—far away from most of her family and friends—didn't faze her. In fact, she credits her current career trajectory as a result of specific experiences she had at Gardner-Webb.

"If it wasn't for Teri Hassell [former GWU Instructor of Health Education and Physical Education], I don't think I would be an officer," Homestead shared. "I was an enlisted soldier in the Army Reserves when I came to Gardner-Webb. Ms. Hassell was a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard, and she motivated me to join GWU's ROTC [Reserve Officer Training Corps] program. She mentored me throughout my journey both as a student and as a cadet."

Other individuals at GWU also helped shape and prepare her for the next steps of her journey. "Dr. [Franki] Burch was a phenomenal instructor," Homestead recalled. "I learned so much from her classes, and she was always available to answer and explain any questions I had. Capt. William Nicholson was an outstanding professor of Military Science and prepared me to be the best soldier I could be. He mentored me on how to be a successful officer."

She has always enjoyed helping people and planned to pursue Physician Assistant (PA) studies. While at GWU, she majored in health and wellness and minored in military science. She earned her bachelor's degree in 2007 and, instead of going to PA school, became a medical operations officer in the National Guard. She traveled the globe, serving U.S.-led humanitarian efforts in Central America and Europe.

"I deployed to Iraq in 2009 as an evacuation and treatment platoon leader in the 30th

Heavy Brigade Combat Team. A few years later, I went to El Salvador as a medical planner for Beyond the Horizons, and upon my return, I was selected for an opportunity in Germany."

Beyond the Horizons-El Salvador was a U.S. Army South-led humanitarian and civic assistance mission deploying U.S. military engineers and medical professionals to El Salvador for training and to provide humanitarian services. After transitioning to Stuttgart, Germany, to serve at the European Command as an operations officer, Homestead met her husband, who was from Alaska. In 2014, the couple decided to move to Anchorage to be near his daughter.

"I had my first child in February 2017—around the same time I was selected to come to Fort Greely, Alaska, to become the senior tactical director for Echo Crew at the 49th Missile Defense Battalion," she offered. "I learned that I am the first female tactical director at Fort Greely. Our rigorous training is validated on a continuous basis through both scheduled and no-notice evacuations with scenarios that emphasize operational realism." She hopes to complete another 10 years in the military and then retire from service.

Whether in uniform as "Major," or on the home front as "Mom," Homestead believes her time at Gardner-Webb helped set the stage for every adventure and opportunity that followed.

"If you want to be part of a community that genuinely cares about you and your success, Gardner-Webb is the place to be," she encouraged. "The teachers are awesome, the coaches are great, and life on campus is very positive. Definitely put GWU on the top of your list."

She hopes the next generation will dig deep, push hard, and reap the rewards that only perseverance and dedication can bring.

"It may be difficult to see the positive in some of the opportunities you may be given," she shared, "but at the end of the day, those difficult roads may lead you to the best opportunity of your life. Don't get comfortable. Always push to be a better version of yourself."





# Crossing Boundaries

GWU Alumna Completes English Channel Swim  
to Record 10th Fastest Solo Crossing of Year

BY JACKIE BRIDGES





# Roka finished her incredible solo swim in 12 hours, 13 minutes and 53 seconds, making her the 10th fastest swimmer of 48 successful crossings in 2017.

**W**ith each stroke through the 64-degree waters of the English Channel, Heather Roka, a 2008 Gardner-Webb University alumna, thought about all the people in her life who inspire her. Roka finished her incredible solo swim in 12 hours, 13 minutes and 53 seconds, making her the 10th fastest swimmer of 48 successful crossings in 2017. The 31-year-old first talked about crossing the channel when she was a member of the GWU swim team. She has trained since 2012 to tackle a feat accomplished by only 1,832 solo swimmers, according to Dover.UK.com.

About 300 meters off the French coast, a changed tide with a strong rip current came between Roka and her dream. "The last 90 minutes of the swim nearly broke me mentally," she confessed. "When I finally pulled myself up the rocks, it was mainly just an overwhelming sense of relief and a little disbelief that I was standing on France. It took about 24 hours for it to sink in that it had actually happened and now I smile every time I think about it. Thankfully, I had trained enough that I was physically able to keep going, and I can't wait for the next challenge."

In the months leading up to the swim, Roka felt blessed because of everything that happened to make the attempt possible. She has an ideal job as a travel physical therapist and randomly met two channel experts. One, Marcy MacDonald, lives 10 miles from her and has completed the channel swim a record 15 times. "MacDonald helped with my training, has provided unending support, and then helped guide and reassure me while I was in England," Roka praised. "I have also been overwhelmed and blessed by the huge amount of support from so many of my GWU classmates and friends."

Former Gardner-Webb swim coach Mike Simpson is not surprised that Roka reached her goal to swim the channel. "Heather has always been a tough cookie," he observed. "She is tough physically. She is tougher mentally. Heather has always had an incredible work ethic."

Simpson built a winning program with student-athletes who are also honored for their academic excellence. "We decided from the beginning to find great fits for Gardner-Webb," Simpson assessed.

"Athletes who get this place. Value the education. Desire to get better athletically, but most importantly, have character and integrity. Heather definitely had all three. She fell in love with this place, and we knew she was a fantastic fit for Gardner-Webb."

She made the crossing with the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation. Her toughest challenges were the cold water and swimming about five hours in the dark. Her crew—sister Lyndsey, friend Isabel (both former GWU swimmers) and Isabel's husband, Dean—gave her warm soup and drinks. To maintain her mental focus, she thought about her patients: teens with spinal cord injuries, adults recovering from strokes, and a 70-year-old amputee. "All of these people have undergone a traumatic situation that has forever changed their life, and yet it is inspiring how many embrace all the challenges I can throw at them," Roka described. "They work so hard, pushing past sweat, tears, frustration and pain. Without saying anything, these people encourage me to do more and try harder."

Since crossing the channel, Roka has taken a permanent job in her hometown of Fort Myers, Fla. She's training for her next major swim, a four-day, four-lake swim for a total of 40 miles in Arizona in April 2019. "It will be a cold-water swim, so I am excited to tackle a different type of challenge," she informed.

Roka has also competed in swims to raise money for an orphanage in Bolivia and to help cancer patients pay for their treatments. "I am also doing the Swim Across the Sound in New York/Connecticut, which is 15 miles and is a fundraiser for the St. Vincent Society focusing on helping people cover medical expenses due to cancer. As I work in healthcare, I see firsthand how often insurance falls short in covering those huge bills."

Roka said swimming at GWU taught her the basics, like pacing and focusing on techniques, but also instilled something more. "The team taught me how to learn to love a challenge, and the wonderful lifetime friendships formed during hours of training, bus rides and meets still impact my life on a daily basis," she affirmed. "The only reason I even attempt these swimming challenges is because of the love of swimming and all the positive memories. Upon graduation, I found myself unable to walk away from the swimming world. No words will ever describe how grateful I am that Coach Simpson decided I could be a valuable part of the GWU team and family."





# THROWING STRIKES

Former GWU Pitcher Alyssa Gutierrez '14 Embraces Risk-taking and Encourages Others to Explore Life Beyond the Comfort Zone

BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

**A**lyssa Gutierrez is no stranger to pressure. The 2014 Gardner-Webb University alumna was a force of steely resolve as a pitcher for the Lady Bulldogs softball team. As a former Carolina 3A High School Pitcher of the Year, Gutierrez knows that hard work reaps multiple dividends.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Gutierrez and her family later relocated to Wake Forest, N.C., where she played softball all four years of high school. After her junior year, Gutierrez reached a fork-in-the-road moment, and admits that she struggled with some key upcoming decisions.

"The summer before my senior year of high school was one of stress and strife," she recounted. "Was I going to a state school? Was I going to a private school? What about softball? What do I want to study?"



After some contemplation and deep prayer, I knew where I was supposed to be, and it was Gardner-Webb. Every time I visited campus, I had a peaceful feeling that made me realize it was home."

While at GWU, she majored in communication studies with a concentration in public relations, because it incorporated all of her favorite things: writing, media relations, and talking with people. "I'm so lucky to have found this field because it is always evolving, and as someone who loves a challenge, it never ceases to keep me on my toes," Gutierrez related.

Her university experience shaped her next steps and prepared her for graduate school at East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, N.C. "My classes at GWU helped me excel in both grad school and in my professional field," she offered. "Because of how I was prepared at Gardner-Webb, I have never been

fazed by a high amount of work due within a looming deadline, the level of difficulty of an assignment, or the challenge of taking on something new. My GWU professors had a knack for taking school assignments and making them relevant to the 'real world.' As a result, my transition from school to work was seamless."

At ECU, Gutierrez served as a communications intern at the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM) and a teaching assistant in the School of Communication. "As a teaching assistant, I had the opportunity to help launch and run the Speech Communication Center that was designed to help all students across campus with their presentations," she shared. "I also taught a Public Speaking course. Both roles offered tremendous insights into the field that I could not have received otherwise."

After graduating from ECU with a Master of Arts in Communication in 2015, Gutierrez became the director of communications for the Better Business Bureau (BBB) - Eastern N.C. Division. Responsible for covering one-third of the state of North Carolina, she oversees the communication department, which handles BBB advertising, media relations, and community outreach. "We have made it our mission to inform both businesses and consumers about the importance of trust in the marketplace. We have also made an effort to expand all BBB services to our Spanish-speaking community as well."

Gutierrez and her team developed and executed a national conference to help other

BBBs across the country learn how to reach the Spanish-speaking demographic. "Our team won the Best Overall Communications Award and Best Outreach Program Award at BBB's annual national meeting," she explained. "This was an incredible accomplishment since we were competing with nearly 100 other BBBs across the U.S., Canada and Mexico!"

Although she loves where she is currently working, she still holds a torch for higher-ed communications and hopes to work in that sector again in the future. "As a communications intern at GWU, I wrote a feature story about a young girl who became a single mom while a college student," she recalled. "She defied the stigmas and stereotypes by graduating on time with the love and support of her family and the University community. While at ECU, I was able to give a voice to the second- and third-year medical students who created and ran a free clinic for the underprivileged in the Greenville area. I want to share those stories and let the world know how incredible our young adults can be."

Stepping off the pitcher's mound into new territory wasn't easy for Gutierrez, but she has never regretted the risks she has taken. "I would have to say the best advice I can give is to get out of your comfort zone early and often," she reflected. "Try new things, go to new places, and meet new people. If you get out of your comfort zone early, then it will become normal and trying new things won't be uncomfortable anymore."

**"My GWU professors had a knack for taking school assignments and making them relevant to the 'real world.' As a result, my transition from school to work was seamless."**







# THE MIRACLE SEASON

GWU Alumna Anna Pashkova '16  
Reflects on Lessons of Friendship,  
Loss and Perseverance

BY NIKI BLISS-CARROLL

**A** motion picture based on the inspiring true story of the West High School (Iowa City, Iowa) girls' volleyball team has hit close to home for one Gardner-Webb University alumna.

In 2010, Anna Pashkova ('16) and her West High School volleyball teammates captured the 4A State Championship. A record-setting libero for the GWU Runnin' Bulldogs, Pashkova remembers the glory of that 2010 high school season. She also recalls the gut-wrenching news that shocked the entire Iowa City community on August 11, 2011—just weeks before the start of her senior year.

The team's star—setter Caroline “Line” Found—was tragically killed in a moped accident. The feature film “The Miracle Season”—released earlier in 2018—tells the story of how the remaining players banded together under the guidance of their tough-love Coach Kathy





Bresnahan—played by Oscar-winner Helen Hunt—in a successful quest to win a consecutive state title in Found’s memory.

“Finding out the story would become a major motion picture was a long process, and so it was something we all soaked in over time,” Pashkova shared. “Producers started approaching our coach and the Found family soon after the 2011 season. Overall, I think the producers did a good job of capturing the main story behind the movie. We hope it is inspiring to many people.”

Academy Award-winner William Hurt plays Found’s father, Ernie, who had to process not only the death of his youngest daughter, but also the loss of his wife, Ellyn, to cancer just 10 days later. Pashkova isn’t sure she truly understood the magnitude of the team’s loss until the season was over. “I had never experienced the death of someone I knew before,” she reflected. “As a team, we just knew we had to stick together and be there for each other more than ever. We even slept at each other’s homes for the first couple of weeks, because we didn’t want to be apart.”

While the team continued to grieve, Coach Bresnahan was working to salvage the season. She no longer carried any hope that West High would be competitive enough to advance to playoffs—let alone make it all the way to another title match. Ultimately, she selected Found’s best friend, Kelley Fliehler, to become the team’s setter.

“Kelley was previously an all-around player—she could play as a hitter, in the back row, and she had good technical setting skills,” Pashkova recalled. “She still had to learn the ‘ins and outs’ of being a setter—which is a position typically developed over several years. She just had a few weeks.”

The movie depicts a turning point in the season where the team began to really click, and they realized they may have a shot at state after all. “The first few games were pretty messy,” said Pashkova. “Once Kelley became our setter, things started coming together, and we started winning games. It was a battle the entire season, but the drive to keep going and striving for the win together and for ‘Line’ pushed us forward.”

Game by game, the West High team marched ahead and managed to face off



against their rival, City High School, at the 2011 State Championship. In a point-by-point showdown, West High emerged victorious after a successful shot down the line to secure the win in the fifth set. “The feeling was almost indescribable. It was such a huge mix of bittersweet feelings,” offered Pashkova. “There was excitement with such a big comeback and relief that we had done it, and it was finally over. It was emotional because of everything that had built up from losing ‘Line’ and the fact that she wasn’t there with us.”

After such an incredible and emotionally-raw season, Pashkova wasn’t sure if she wanted to continue playing volleyball in college. “I actually went on my visit to Gardner-Webb in the middle of my senior season,” she reflected. “I wasn’t planning on playing, but what captivated me about GWU was the close-knit community that felt like home and resembled the community of support we had created in Iowa.”

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from GWU in 2016. Now a graduate student at Ohio State University (OSU), Pashkova is studying medical dietetics and hopes to become a registered dietician. She will complete the OSU program in 2019.

“My time at GWU reinforced the incredible benefits of a small community. It was so beneficial for my education, and I had the most amazing professors and advisor—Dr. Jeff Hartman—while I was there,” Pashkova declared. “We had difficult volleyball seasons in a different way than I had experienced before, but this also served as a teaching point in itself to continuously keep trying and never give up throughout the journey.”

Overall, the lessons she has learned through her high school and college experiences have prepared her for whatever may come in the future. “I’ve realized that things aren’t always easy, and unexpected life events are bound to happen,” she explained. “We have a choice in how we respond to and deal with it. ‘Line’ was a great example of how to live life to the fullest with passion—and to continually live in the present.”



# CLASSACTS

## 1960s

### Steve Poston '66



has been named to the Wingate Sports Hall of Fame class of 2017 at Wingate (N.C.) University. The Gardner-Webb graduate has given 46 years of service to Wingate, while serving as the

director of athletics since 2001 and as a vice president for over 20 years. He began as the head baseball coach at Wingate, leading the squad for seven years while earning league Coach of the Year honors twice and picking up a nod for Region Coach of the Year. Poston led the Bulldogs to a pair of conference championships. During his time as the Director of Athletics (AD), Wingate has won the SAC Echols Athletic Excellence Cup 12 times, more than any other school in league history. Wingate has added six sports in his time (men's swimming, women's lacrosse, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field). The Bulldogs rank first in NCAA Division II Academic All-America producing colleges since Poston became the AD. Under Poston's direction, Wingate is the SAC leader in conference titles, SAC Scholar-Athletes, SAC Presidents' Award winners, conference Players of the Year and Academic All-America honorees. The Bulldogs picked up the first NCAA team title in a SAC-sanctioned sport in 2016 when the men's soccer team took home the title.

### J. Scott Padgett '67

has been recognized for his leadership and legacy to the city of Concord, N.C. Padgett completed four terms as Mayor of Concord in December 2017. The Concord City Council unanimously voted to rename

the airport "Concord-Padgett Regional Airport." Before serving as Concord's mayor, the Gardner-Webb graduate served on City Council from 1995-2001. In addition to 27 years of elected leadership, his service in Concord extends back over 40 years with a career as a public-school educator and principal at Coltrane-Webb and Beverly Hills Elementary Schools. He will continue his public service to North Carolina after being appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper to the Local Government Commission.

### Kevin Cantwell '69

is the author of "Parent's Guide to Youth Basketball and Beyond." Cantwell played basketball at GWU under Eddie Holbrook, and went on to serve as assistant coach for Bobby Cremins, legendary coach of Appalachian State, Georgia Tech, and, most recently, the College of Charleston. Based on Cantwell's years of experience as a player, college coach and recruiter, the book helps parents who have children playing at any stage of pre-high school or high school basketball. For more information about the book, visit his website, [www.kevincantwellbasketball.com](http://www.kevincantwellbasketball.com). Books are available at Amazon.com.

## 1970s

### Jim Washburn '73



was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame Class. A former offensive tackle, Washburn developed a reputation as one of the Gardner-Webb football program's stalwarts during his time in Boiling Springs, starring on the line in both the junior college and senior college eras. He started his career

under legendary head coach Norman Harris, helping the Bulldogs to a 6-2-2 mark in 1968. Washburn embarked upon a successful coaching career after his playing days were complete. He coached at the highest levels of Division I football, but made his most significant impact as one of the game's most well-respected defensive line coaches in the NFL. The Shelby, N.C., native coached 18 total seasons in the NFL, working with the Tennessee Titans, Philadelphia Eagles, Detroit Lions and Miami Dolphins. He was named Defensive Assistant Coach of the Year by Pro Football Weekly in 2000 and was chosen by Sports Illustrated scribe Peter King as Assistant Coach of the Year in 2008. Washburn saw seven of his linemen earn Pro Bowl honors during his career, with that group accounting for 15 total Pro Bowl selections.

### Julian "Doc" Crocker Davis '75



was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. A resident of Spartanburg, S.C., he is a 1975 graduate of GWU with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education. He was a four-year letterman in football from 1971 to 1974 and was starting quarterback for the Runnin' Bulldogs in 1973, which was the first winning season in senior college history. Davis coached high school football in South Carolina for 35 years, 25 of which were head coaching positions. His teams won a total of 222 games together, including five state championships. He was named State Coach of the Year six times and is a member of the Boone High School Hall of Fame, The South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the South Carolina Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



## 1980s

### Dr. Barbara R. Blackburn '82 and '87

has just released the third version of her bestselling book, "Rigor is NOT a Four Letter Word." In this practical resource, Blackburn defines rigor and gives tools that teachers can use every day to raise the level of rigor in their classrooms. The strategies can be incorporated immediately across content areas, grades and subjects. Blackburn has authored 18 books for educators that focus on rigor, motivation, instruction and leadership. A sought-after consultant, she was an award-winning professor at Winthrop University and has taught students of all ages. She was named as one of the Top 30 Education Gurus in the world for 2017 by Global Gurus. Her books are available online from her publisher, [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com), Amazon.com and other major bookstores. For more information, visit the website, [BarbaraBlackburnOnline.com](http://BarbaraBlackburnOnline.com).

### Daniel Calhoun Johnson Jr. '82



was posthumously inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Johnson never let his deafness prevent him from following God's call to serve in ministry. He completed his Bachelor of Arts at Gardner-Webb in 1982, after learning about the University's new deaf program. He went on to New Orleans Theological Seminary for his Master of Divinity, completing his degree in 1985. He was awarded his Doctor of Ministry in 2008 at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity in Homewood, Ala. He served as pastor for the Deaf and as a strategic church planter. Additionally, he operated as a field worker and missionary for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans and the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He passed away Jan. 16, 2011.

### Jennifer Mincey Stepp '86



was elected to the City Council of Gastonia, N.C., serving Ward 5, the ward her father served when she was a child. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education from Gardner-Webb. She is also involved in community service, arts, sports and her church, First ARP.

### Ronda McCraw '87



retired from Cleveland County Schools (CCS) in Shelby, N.C., and works part time as a reading tutor with CCS. She has also served as a volunteer with Hospice of Cleveland County at Wendover (Shelby, N.C.) for several years. She was a teacher assistant from 1978-1986, and a classroom teacher from 1987-2009 in grades K-4. She became the Title I Lead Teacher in 2009 and served children in this capacity as a Reading Intervention Specialist until her retirement. McCraw also taught summer school and was the summer literacy teacher/coordinator for several years. While working for CCS, she served two years as a teacher representative for Gardner-Webb's Educational Committee. She received the following awards: Boiling Springs Elementary Teacher of the Year, Boiling Springs Elementary Agape Award, CCS Risk Watch Educator of the Year (two years), North Carolina Risk Watch Educator of the Year, Carolina News Channel 14 Teacher of the Week, Who's Who in America's Teachers (twice), and Cleveland County Schools STAR teacher. Her poem, "They Call Her Ruth," was published in Carolina Women Today magazine.

### John Vaughn '87

was inducted into the 2017 United States Deaf Golf Association Hall of Fame. He received a Bachelor of Science from Gardner-Webb and

was a member of the golf team from 1982 to 1986. He was named a GWU Distinguished Alumni in 2002. A resident of Raynham, Mass., Vaughn is employed as a job developer/career counselor at TEMPUS Unlimited Inc. in Stoughton, Mass. He has won numerous golf championships, including 11 times Southeastern Deaf Golf Champion, twice National Deaf Golf Champion, twice National Deaf Golf Runner Up, twice Northeast Deaf Golf Champion, twice Northeast Deaf Golf Runner Up, six times Connecticut State Deaf Golf Champion, five times BayState Deaf Golf Champion, and Deaf golf champion for several other states. He was also inducted into the Southeastern Deaf Golf Association Hall of Fame in 2007.

## 1990s

### Carol Lynn Sisk '90

has released "Fidget," a fun-filled, action-packed memoir of adventures. Sisk is a retired public high school music and drama teacher and a summa cum laude graduate of Gardner-Webb. Currently, she serves as the music director for her church and as an in-house musician at a local funeral home. Published by Christian Faith Publishing, Sisk's new book tells the story of the author's childhood as a fidgety, mischievous girl. During her childhood, Sisk spent time in both the North and South, where she learned the customs and dialects of several geographical regions. The author's heritage, speech, mannerisms, neighbors, friends and acquaintances—combined with historical events of the time period—create a fun-filled, action-packed memoir of adventures. Through it all, however, God's providence and guidance are always evident in the life of Fidget. The book is available in bookstores or online at Amazon.com, Apple iTunes store, Kobo or Barnes and Noble.



### Kimberly Wilson Capps '91

graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in December 2017 with a MACE and concentration in childhood education. Since 2006, she has served at the preschool minister at Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Old Hickory, Tenn. She received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Gardner-Webb.

### Charlie Harbison '95



was named assistant coach for the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League (NFL). A native of Shelby, N.C., Harbison was hired as assistant defensive backs coach in 2018 by Cardinals' Head

Coach Steve Wilks, who spent the past six seasons as a coach for the Carolina Panthers. Harbison played college football at GWU for four seasons (1978 – 1981) and signed as a free agent with the Buffalo Bills in 1982. He spent two seasons playing for the Boston/New Orleans Breakers of the United States Football League (USFL). As an assistant coach, he has enjoyed a robust career in a variety of collegiate programs including Gardner-Webb University, University of Texas-El Paso (El Paso, Texas), University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.), Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.), Mississippi State University (Starkville, Miss.), Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.), Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.), and University of Louisiana-Lafayette (Lafayette, La.). He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb in 1995. He and his wife, Tammy, are strong supporters of Gardner-Webb, serving as Bulldog Club Lifetime members and endowed scholarship donors.

### James Short '98



was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. The first Gardner-Webb wrestler to receive this honor, Short finished his career in Boiling Springs as the

most accomplished performer in his sport. Short, who lives in Hendersonville, N.C., won a combined 54 matches over a two-season span in 1997 and 1998, twice qualifying for a berth in the NCAA Division II National Championships. Short posted a 27-7 mark in 1997 along with 57 takedowns to earn his first berth to the national championships. He finished eighth in Fargo, N.D., to earn NCAA Division II All-America honors. Short followed with 27 more wins in 1998, qualifying again for the national championships. He helped Gardner-Webb to a No. 26 team finish nationally that season. In high school, Short earned state Wrestler of the Year honors in 1994. He was also Junior National Greco Roman Champion in 1994. After completing his career at Gardner-Webb, Short continued to wrestle competitively and became the first GWU student-athlete to compete in the U.S. Olympic Trials in 2000.

### Melissa Browning '99



was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Rev. Dr. Browning is a theologian, ethicist and activist who studies community-based responses to injustice. A 1999 graduate of GWU,

Browning teaches seminary students at McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga. As an assistant professor of contextual ministry, she teaches courses in practical ministry, community development, and community organizing. For nearly 20, her study and fieldwork has been tied to East Africa. Her book, "Risky Marriage: HIV and Intimate Relationships in Tanzania," builds on fieldwork completed in Mwanza, Tanzania. Closer to home, she has been active in death penalty abolitionist work in Georgia.

### 2000s

#### Michael McKay '00

has published his second book of poems, "Positive Poems & Perspectives—The Goodness of Life."

McKay lives in Atlanta, Ga., and is a freelance broadcaster. He was a member of the GWU football team from 1997 - 1999. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. This book explores the goodness that this life has to offer. Through situations in his life, McKay realized that God and Jesus make the impossible, possible, and God is known to make a way out of no way. The book is available from Outskirts Press ([outskirtspress.com](http://outskirtspress.com)) and Amazon.com.

### Justin Scot Alston '03



was posthumously inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Alston graduated from GWU in 2003 with a degree in sports management and

physical education. His chief joy was coaching and refereeing intramural games at Gardner-Webb. Alston put his all into coaching intramurals. He would always have a prayer with the team after the game, win or lose. He served on the Student Alumni Council, was the Commuter Committee chairman, and was involved in many other GWU clubs and activities. He enrolled at High Point (N.C.) University to obtain a master's degree with hopes of coaching basketball at the Division I level. He was an active member of Southeast Baptist Church (SEBC) in Greensboro, N.C., and was serving as a volunteer coach at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro when he passed away on Jan. 17, 2004. Each year the Justin Scot Alston LIFE Award is given by the Student Alumni Council and the Office of Alumni Relations in memory of Alston. The award recognizes a GWU senior who embodies the same spirit Alston showed in his devotion to God, Gardner-Webb and others. Additionally, SEBC remembered Alston by naming the church sports field in his memory.



### Erin Boyd Odom '03

recently published "More Than Just Making It" and "You Can Stay Home With Your Kids" with HarperCollins Christian Publishing. Odom blogs at thehumbledhomemaker.com and is the author of four other books designed to equip and encourage mothers in the trenches. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Spanish from Gardner-Webb. "More Than Just Making It" tells the story of Odom and her family's financial breaking point, as well as the triumph of their comeback. It took hard work, creativity, and faith in God's provision to reset their bank account as well as their hearts, but ultimately, they found a new way to thrive and freedom from financial anxiety. It is available online via Amazon.com and other major bookstores.

### Todd Anthony Picou '03



was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. Picou earned his Master of Business Administration from Gardner-Webb in 2003. He grew up in South Louisiana and earned his Bachelor of Arts in accounting from Louisiana State University in 1988. In 1997, Picou co-founded Hospice Care of South Carolina, LLC, the largest hospice provider in the state of South Carolina. In 2000, he co-founded the Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that has provided over \$100,000 to help those with special needs at the end of their lives. In 2014, the company expanded to the state of Georgia, creating Hospice Care of Georgia, LLC. He currently serves on the Public Policy Committee for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

### Mario Williams '03

was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2017. A former prep quarterback, Williams earned his reputation as a hard-hitting safety very early in Boiling Springs.



A native of Ninety Six, S.C., he emerged as a star in 2002, earning Big South Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors and Division I-AA All-America honors after leading Gardner-Webb to a 9-1 record and a final top-20 national ranking. Williams followed that campaign up with a better one, repeating as Big South Conference Defensive Player of the Year and earning another round of Division I-AA All-America accolades. His senior season was cut short by injury, but Williams still earned All-Big South Conference honors for the third consecutive season. When he was finished, Williams totaled 326 career tackles – which remains the top total in program history for a defensive back. He also broke up 35 passes – including a career-high 15 in 2003 – which is the top career mark in Gardner-Webb history. Williams went on to enjoy a successful professional career in Germany, beginning in NFL Europe with the Frankfurt Galaxy.

### Paul Christopher "Chris" Gash '07, '16



was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. A resident of Kingstown, N.C., Gash graduated from GWU in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and in 2016 with a Master of Divinity. As an undergrad, he played on the men's basketball team. He currently operates Christover Athletics and serves as chaplain for the GWU men's basketball team. He was the youngest politician elected in Cleveland County, serving as mayor pro tem in Kingstown from 2013-2016. Gash currently serves on the Cleveland County Schools Diversity Committee and the GWU Alumni Board. He is community coordinator for the Cleveland Strong Project, a long-term health improvement

initiative supported by Cleveland County Schools, Partners Behavioral Health Management, and Cleveland County government. He is the pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Spindale, N.C.

### Terra Wilson '07



was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletics Hall of Fame. A native of Potter Valley, Calif., she was named Northeast Conference (NEC) Most Outstanding Swimmer three times and won a combined 22 conference titles in her four seasons in the pool. In addition to her individual success, Wilson sparked Gardner-Webb to four NEC team championships in four seasons. In 2006, Wilson earned NCAA Division I honorable mention All-America honors after qualifying for nationals as a junior in the 200m free. She returned to the NCAA Division I National Championships in 2007, finishing sixth in the 200m free to earn Division I All-America honors. Wilson also earned honorable mention All-America honors in the 100m free that season. She went on to success after her Gardner-Webb career was complete, becoming the first swimmer in school history to compete at U.S. Olympic Trials in 2008.

### Tayuanee L. Dewberry '09



was inducted into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni. She has two degrees from Gardner-Webb: a bachelor's in business administration in 1997 and her master's in counseling with an education specialist certification in 2009. She is a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in North Carolina. As executive director of Right Moves for Youth, a non-profit program focused on dropout prevention and youth



development in Charlotte, N.C., Dewberry works to develop potential in today's youth. With that same passion, she also serves as a business mentor and consultant to teach, build and empower other professionals across various disciplines. She is a 2016 recipient of the Z. Smith Reynold's Sabbatical, a prestigious honor awarded to non-profit executives with a track record of phenomenal leadership, strategic planning and non-profit vision, and organizational growth.

### George B. Jackson ('09)

has published his third book, "Ordination Training for Bi-Vocational Clergy." Jackson serves as pastor of Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship in Thomasville, N.C. The 150-page book is designed to guide licensed preachers in preparing for catechism leading to ordination or holy orders. Non-denominational in approach, the manual is an easy-to-understand road map answering the most basic questions: How do I implement ministry, and what tools will I need to serve God and His people? The book is a byproduct of Jackson's doctoral project at Gardner-Webb. It is full of personal insights and directions for administering the sacraments and special ceremonies germane to the modern church. For more information, contact Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship at (336) 476-7218, e-mail cfcf01@triad.twcbc.com, or visit the website citadeloffaith.net.

## 2010s

### Kim McClure '13



has been appointed to the N.C. Child Care Commission. McClure is the District Executive Director of the Davie and Yadkin Family YMCAs within the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina. Her career spans more than 20 years and includes time working in YMCA operations, with a particular

expertise in childcare. The N.C. Child Care Commission is responsible for adopting rules to implement the child care laws established by the N.C. General Assembly.



### Michelle Taylor Skipper '13

is a recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service, the highest honor a state employee may receive. She was recognized for helping with relief efforts in St. Pauls, N.C., after flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Her efforts extended to her neighbors and others who were stranded in town when major roads became impassable. Skipper earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at GWU in 2013. She is a clinical associate professor and director of the DNP program in the College of Nursing at East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, N.C. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) with nearly 20 years of experience, working primarily in rural family practice and OB-GYN settings in Scotland County, N.C.

### Charles Tucker '13

was honored as one of America's Best in Nursing by The American Health Council. With almost three decades in the healthcare industry, Tucker earned a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and subsequently a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in 2013 from Gardner-Webb. He also gained his certification as a Nurse Educator from the National League for Nursing. He is presently an associate

professor of nursing and simulation/lab/clinical coordinator at Mars Hill (N.C.) University. In addition to his responsibilities as clinical coordinator, Tucker teaches medical/surgical classes, assists in the skills labs, and coordinates simulation experiences.



### Bethany Welch '13

is communications manager for North Carolina State Ports Authority (N.C. Ports). The organization is the managing body for the ports in Wilmington and Morehead City, and promotes economic development across the state through the ports. The Gardner-Webb graduate was previously a news producer with Spectrum News in Raleigh, N.C. A resident of Wilmington, she frequently travels to speak at community events aimed to provide updates on N.C. Ports. She works with local, state and international media partners to promote the latest developments at the Ports of Wilmington and Morehead City.

### Kamarie Miles '14



has been hired as director of finance for Hughes Agency, a full-service public relations, marketing, advertising and event management firm in Greenville, S.C. Miles has more than 10 years of experience in corporate accounting, public accounting, and tax



preparation. Before joining Hughes Agency, she was an accounting and tax manager for a small CPA firm, and an adjunct accounting professor at North Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C. Miles holds a Master of Accountancy degree from Gardner-Webb. She is a member of Delta Mu Delta International Business Honors Society.

#### **April Guenzler '13, '16**

has been named 2018 National Magnet School Teacher of the Year. She is a teacher at Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary in the Wake County (N.C.) School System and was selected from a group of eight regional teachers of the year. Guenzler received her Master of Arts in Elementary Education from GWU in 2013 and earned a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from GWU in 2016.

#### **Sarah Lynch '16**



has been hired as the director of the Kings Mountain (N.C.) Historical Museum. Lynch earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Gardner-Webb and completed her

Master of Arts in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. She has experience from working/serving at seven other museums and historic sites, including the Earl Scruggs Center, the Boiling Springs Museum, the Edgar Allen Poe Museum, and most recently, York Minster in the United Kingdom.

#### **John R. Wright '17**

has co-authored "Dio Chrysostomis Kingship Oration 1—An Advanced Greek Reader with a New Translation" with Dr. Fredrick J. Long, professor of New Testament and director of Greek Instruction at Asbury Theological Seminary. Published by GlossaHouse, Advanced Greek readers for *Kingship Orations* 2, 3 and 4 are forthcoming. Wright received his B.A. in History



Dr. Jack Weller and wife, Barbara.

#### **Jack Weller '17**

received the 2017 Board Member of the Year Award recently at the North Carolina Area Council Leadership Conference of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Carolina held in Raleigh. Weller, board president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland County, N.C., was recognized for his long and significant contributions to the Boys & Girls Club Movement and North Carolina youth. Weller, a member of the board since 1994, has served as its president since 2002. Weller obtained a renovation grant from the Lowes Education Foundation that resulted

in a \$60,000 renovation of the main club. As part of a long-range plan developed in 2010, Weller co-chaired a capital campaign to raise almost \$500,000 to renovate the former Shelby Middle School gymnasium and create the Mable Hamrick Whisnant Teen Center. The Center houses a computer lab, classroom, game room and air-conditioned gymnasium and serves an average of 40 middle to high school students a day. In August 2017, Weller received his Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Gardner-Webb.

from Brevard College (Brevard, N.C.) and his M.Div. in Biblical Studies from the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity. He is currently a Ph.D. student in NT at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky. He is an ordained Baptist minister whose interests include New Testament Greek, classical Greek literature and mythology, and the intersection

of Imperial Cult studies and the Book of Revelation.

#### **Missy West '18**

was named Teacher of the Year at Rosman (N.C.) Middle School. She received her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Gardner-Webb.



# A Life Devoted to 'God and Humanity'

Family Remembers  
Bobby M. Pettyjohn  
'52 with Prayer  
Garden at GWU

BY JACKIE BRIDGES

**B**obby M. Pettyjohn was a man of prayer who spent his life witnessing to others about Jesus. When he passed away, his family wanted to honor his memory with a gift to Gardner-Webb, the University that helped Pettyjohn earn a college degree and the place where he met future wife, Carolyn.

"The things we learned there he used all his life," shared Mrs. Pettyjohn, who lives in Camden, S.C. "He was a successful but humble person. I felt extremely blessed to be his wife."

Pettyjohn retired from the DuPont Company after 32 years as a research chemist. He held leadership positions at First Baptist Church in Camden. He had a bachelor's degree from Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He was an Army veteran, having served in the Korean era.







Each month, a community prayer gathering is held in the prayer garden.

After 55 years of marriage, and a lifetime of memories, Bobby passed away. As she prayed about the best way to honor her husband's memory, Mrs. Pettyjohn dropped to her knees. When she did, an idea for a prayer garden came to her. She wanted to create a quiet place where people could talk to God. The Pettyjohn Prayer Garden is situated in front of Webb Hall near Main Street in Boiling Springs. Benches are placed in the circular area, which is surrounded by bushes. The Suttle-Wall Tower of Light stands in the center. This location also serves as the backdrop for the monthly prayer gatherings for university faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community.

A white stone placed in the brick sidewalk at the entrance is engraved with the names of his wife and children, who are also GWU graduates.

"When the joys, opportunities and demands of college life seem overwhelming, the Pettyjohn family encourages faculty, staff and students alike to visit this prayer garden and to take these matters to the Lord," son, Robert Pettyjohn, affirmed.

The scripture on the stone, II Timothy 2:1-2, is a reference to Pettyjohn's firm faith and ability to teach others. "Bobby was the Sunday school director at First Baptist Church in Camden for over 25 years, and also led a visitation program," Mrs. Pettyjohn elaborated. "We were always a part of

outreach and visitation programs in every church we attended."

A native of Georgia, Pettyjohn came to GWU in 1951 on a football scholarship. He was the first person in his family to attend college, and he was determined to be a leader in class and on campus. Mrs. Pettyjohn was a native of Lenoir, N.C., and transferred to GWU in 1952. On their third date, she asked Pettyjohn to share his testimony with her. When he did, she knew he was the one for her.

The Pettyjohns treasured the time they spent at GWU. They were also excited when their three children and two grandchildren selected Gardner-Webb as their college of choice.

Bobby Pettyjohn remained connected to GWU for most of his life, serving on the Gardner-Webb Board of Advisors, three terms as president of the Alumni Board of Directors, and was president of the Board of Directors for the Christian Service Organization (CSO). Mrs. Pettyjohn also served on the CSO board, and the couple established a CSO scholarship in 1995. Pettyjohn was awarded Alumnus of the Year in 1985, and Mrs. Pettyjohn was named a Distinguished Alumna in 2000.

Mrs. Pettyjohn concluded, "Throughout his life, Bobby was completely involved in what Gardner-Webb stood for—Pro Deo et Humanitate, for God and Humanity."



Pettyjohn family: Carolyn and Bobby Pettyjohn and their children, from left, Max, Marcy and Robert



# IN MEMORIAM

## 1940s

### **Rebecca Jane Kendrick Borders '41**

passed away Feb. 11, 2018, in Rock Hill, S.C. She was a graduate of Number Three High School and Gardner-Webb, with an Associate of Arts degree. She was a charter member of Eastview Baptist Church in Rock Hill where she sang in the choir, taught children's Sunday School, and was active in the women's mission organization. She worked at Smith Enterprises in Rock Hill for more than 20 years.

### **Evelyn Elaine Harrill Spangler '45**

passed away Jan. 15, 2018, in Shelby, N.C. She graduated from Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest. While at Wake Forest, Spangler sang in the choir and later was part of a singing group that performed in churches and for special events. After college, she taught English and Spanish at Polkville (N.C.) High School. She was a member of the Junior Charity League of Shelby, church circles, book club, and a bridge club that cared for each other over 60 years.

## 1950s

### **Gene Gamble '59**

passed away Jan. 1, 2018, in Greenwood, S.C. Born in Shelby, N.C., he was a graduate of Gardner-Webb and was a US Navy veteran, serving during the Korean War. He retired from Greenwood Mills as director of weaving after more than 30 years of service. He was a member of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Greenwood, teacher of the Gene Gamble Sunday School Class, and a deacon.

## 1960s



### **Ali Pouryousefi '66**

passed away Sept. 9, 2018, at his home in Dunwoody, Ga. A recent inductee into the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni, he began his college career as

an international student at GWU in 1959. He left to study petroleum engineering at Louisiana State University, but decided this was not to be his life's work. In 1964, he returned to Gardner-Webb and completed an associate degree in 1966. He continued his studies at the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy, where he graduated in 1969. He worked with Walgreens, Eckerd Drug, and Rite Aid, retiring in 2012 after 43 years. As a pharmacist, he met and served many people, and his greatest gift was to help people in their time of need. He was especially fond of GWU Homecomings and attended almost every fall. The family of Mr. Pouryousefi fulfilled his wishes by naming the art gallery in Tucker Student Center in his memory. They also endowed two scholarships. His legacy represents his love for Gardner-Webb, and his desire for students to have the opportunity to gain a GWU education.

### **Elizabeth Gale Earley '64**

passed away Jan. 21, 2018, in Jacksonville, N.C. Born in Bostic, N.C., she received her bachelor's degree in education from Gardner-Webb and a master's in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She alternated between teaching first and third grade in Jacksonville. She was then hired to manage the Onslow County (N.C.) Sheltered Workshop at Coastal Enterprises where she trained and taught vocational rehabilitation to handicapped adults. Next, she entered the real estate world where she worked for over 35 years. She was the owner/broker of The Real Estate & Property Management Center in Jacksonville. She was a member of the N.C. Real Estate Commission, National Association of Realtors, the Onslow County Board of Elections, as well as many other committees and organizations.

### **Stephen Hurl O'Shields '67**

passed away June 21, 2018, in Charlotte, N.C. A native of Shelby, N.C. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. He was employed for many years by White, Paullin, and Blacka CPA firm, and was chief financial officer of the James L. Highsmith Company and of ATECK. He was manager and swim coach of the Mountain Brook Swim Club and Spearhead Swim Team at Johnston Memorial YMCA in the 1970s and 1980s. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church in Blowing Rock, N.C., and St. John's Lafayette Square Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. He volunteered for over 25 years with the American Heart Association of Greater Charlotte.

## 1970s

### **Eugene Durham Falls Jr. '71**

passed away Jan. 17, 2018, in Charlotte, N.C. A native of Greenville, S.C., he graduated from Gardner-Webb with a degree in business administration. He worked 38 years for Patent Construction Systems as a salesman. He was a long-time member of Pine Island Country Club where he enjoyed playing golf. He was a member of Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church where he served many years as an elder as well as Sunday school superintendent.

### **Frank James Talley Jr. '72**

### **Jane Shytle Talley '78**

Jane Shytle Talley, 75, passed away Feb. 6, 2018, and her husband of 57 years, Frank James Talley Jr., 79, passed away Feb. 8, 2018. Frank Talley served in the United States Army in Germany as a tank driver following World War II. He graduated from Gardner-Webb and received his master's in speech and hearing from Western Carolina University. He worked as a speech pathologist for many years and was an author. Jane was a registered nurse and



received her nursing degree from Gardner-Webb and worked for many years as the Director of Nursing at Rutherford Nursing Center in Rutherfordton, N.C., now Willow Ridge Nursing Center. The Talleys were faithful members of Florence Baptist Church in Forest City, N.C., and sang in the Sanctuary Choir. Jane also enjoyed the Handbell Choir and many other musical activities in the church.

## 1980s

### **Ravon 'Ray' Sutton Webb '83**

passed away Feb. 19, 2018, in Wilmington, N.C. He received his degree from Gardner-Webb, and pastored his first church, Lavonia Baptist Church (Mooresboro, N.C.), from 1980 to 1988. He was then called to pastor Beach Road Baptist Church in 1988 and served there until he retired in 2010.

### **Linda Cartner McAuley '88**

passed away Jan. 5, 2018, in Statesville, N.C. A native of Iredell County (N.C.), she attended Clarksbury United

Methodist Church in Harmony, N.C., with her family and helped her family on their dairy farm. She graduated from Harmony High School, where she was active in the school 4-H club, and then attended Mitchell College. She earned a bachelor's degree from Gardner-Webb and worked for Iredell County Social Services. She was active in 4-H and was inducted into the NC 4-H Leadership Hall of Fame. In 2017, the family received the NC 4-H Family Legacy Award.

## 1990s

### **Lynn Childrez Munoz '94**

passed away Feb. 6, 2018, in Shelby, N.C. A native of Cleveland County, N.C., she was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shelby and a graduate of Gardner-Webb with majors in psychology and sociology. Her most recent employment was with Brown & Williamson, where she was a territory manager.

**Teresa Lynn Sailors Human '97** passed away Jan. 1, 2018, in Shelby, N.C. She was a member of Way of the Cross Free Will Baptist Church in Shelby. She was a graduate of Gardner-Webb, where she received her degree in nursing. She worked for Rutherford (N.C.) Hospital for 17 years.

## 2000s

### **Roxanna Beam Carpenter '12**

passed away Jan. 21, 2018, in Kings Mountain, N.C. After graduating from Burns High School, she studied business administration at Appalachian State University. Later in life, she earned a degree in health care management from Gardner-Webb. Roxanna was an artist and expressed herself through painting, pottery, jewelry making, and she owned her floral shop, Blooming Things, in Cherryville, N.C.

I am incredibly grateful for all the opportunities I had as a student-athlete the last 4 years at Gardner-Webb, and it would not have been possible without the financial support I received. Not only did I transform intellectually and physically, I grew spiritually closer to Christ through the relationships I developed with my coaches and professors.

Keaton Poole '18 - Track and Field and Cross Country

"Being born on Long Island, N.Y., lacrosse had a huge influence on me, and I wanted to share that with the growing program at Gardner-Webb. The University emphasizes the importance of education, the ability to thrive in the classroom and on the field, and it provides the support system of the entire faculty to excel at both. Gardner-Webb is setting student-athletes up to thrive in the real world!"

COLLEEN CONN '19 - Lacrosse

## CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gardner-Webb University Bulldog Club is the fundraising effort for the department of athletics, helping to fund scholarships for the University's 22 NCAA Division I sports.



[Gardner-webb.edu/bulldog-club](http://Gardner-webb.edu/bulldog-club)







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